

FRAUD

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honest," Williams said.

Serious cases of fraud come from non-students and people from out of town.

Take the case of Karen Rose Taylor and Cheryl Diane Odman.

Taylor, 44, and Odman, 38, joined forces last spring in a several-week scam where they shoplifted in area stores and returned the merchandise for the refund money, according to an article in *The Register-Guard* on March 25.

The two women took an average of \$600 a day to pay for their cocaine habits.

Among just some of their targets, they scammed the bookstore for the price of two bike helmets and J-Bars, a beauty salon on Alder Street, for the price of a

bag full of hair care products. The two women also scammed a Bible store.

Sue Kelley, owner of Blue Heron Bicycles, helped to catch the pair by pointing them out to police officer Ken Saxon when the two women returned to the bike store.

Again, store owners say that this is an isolated incident and that fraud is rare.

But theft and other crimes are just as rare near area businesses partly because of the efforts of Saxon and the business association.

"Things improved 200 percent" when Saxon came four years ago, said Richard Green, owner of Rainbow Optics and one-time chairman of the association.

The association, which now has about 30 members, splits Saxon's salary 50/50

with the Eugene police department.

Before he was hired, many store owners said they were concerned for their personal safety, with robberies, thefts and aggressive panhandling then on the rise in the area of 13th Street between the Bookstore and the Dairy Queen.

Bill Harkelroad, manager for Face The Music, said that before Saxon was hired, customers coming into the store often had to step over vagrants and walk through a gauntlet of pushy panhandlers.

Many of the vagrants seemed to be high school-aged runaways, Harkelroad said, who come to Eugene for its reputation of being a haven for "hippie" lifestyles.

Association members met whenever they had problems, members said, and this helped them tackle safety problems and make the campus business district

safer.

Julie Golf, chairwoman for the organization and manager of J-Bars, said that because there has been less communication between members in recent years, it has been more difficult to quickly address crime sprees.

"It probably would not have gotten as far if we had communicated better as a group," Golf said about the Taylor and Odman shoplifting/return scam.

In the future, the association will probably incorporate more businesses from outside the immediate campus area, such as businesses around the Bijou Theater, Green said.

Much of the crime has been driven there as the association and police have become more organized near the University, he said.

POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene police department Sept. 15-22.

- A 32-year-old male was arrested on Sept. 15 on the 1300 block of Kincaid Street on a warrant for a failure to appear.

- A 22-year-old male was arrested Sept. 15 on the 500 block of East 15th Avenue for robbery in the third degree, fourth degree assault, theft by receiving and third degree theft. According to police reports, the suspect got into the victim's car and set off the car alarm. The owner of the car attempted to remove the suspect and was then assaulted.

- A 19-year-old male transient was arrested on the 1300 block of Alder Street for criminal trespass on Sept. 16.

- Criminal mischief was reported on the 1600 block of Alder Street on Sept. 16. According to police reports, a car tire valued at \$150 was slashed.

- A 44-year-old male was arrested on Sept. 16 near the 1200 block of Alder Street for multiple warrants and possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

- A 33-year-old male was cited for DUI Sept. 17 on the 1800 block of Pearl Street.

- A 19-year-old male was cited for possessing less than one ounce of marijuana Sept. 17 on the 1300 block of Patterson Street. Another 19-year-old male was arrested for delivering the marijuana to the first suspect.

- A 27-year-old male student was cited Sept. 20 on the 1100 block of Mill Street for felony driving while suspended. According to police reports, the suspension is the result of a DUI conviction.

- A student reported bicycle theft Sept. 20 on the 500 block of East 16th Avenue. The bike is valued at \$300.

- A student reported bicycle theft Sept. 21 on the 1000 block of Patterson Street. The bike is valued at \$700.

- A student reported bicycle theft Sept. 21 on the 1200 block of East 13th Avenue. The bike is valued at \$270.

- A student reported bicycle theft Sept. 21 on the 900 block of East 13th Avenue. The bike is valued at \$400.

- A female transient was arrested Sept. 22 for providing false information to police and a criminal trespass warrant.

— Compiled by Joe Harwood

ET ALS

MISCELLANEOUS

Jewish Student Union will discuss the University's journal for new visions of the Jewish experience tonight at 7 in EMU Century Room B. For more information, call 346-4366.

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Alliance welcomes students to a social with Wymprov tonight from 7 to 9 in Gerlinger Lounge. Refreshments will be served. For information, call 346-3360.



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