

# Saferide adopts new policies

Friederich von Carp  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Saferide has announced stricter policies regarding why and where it will offer women transportation after dark.

"We've had an incredible increase in the number of women who use Saferide," said Kristy Miller, Saferide co-director. "Saferide is a rape-prevention service, not a shuttle."

"By giving the personal rides for shopping and laundry, we were effectively turning away single women who really needed the ride," she said.

"Single women are the top priority in so far as maintaining a safety-oriented service," said Saferide's volunteer coordinator Anna Koopman.

"A lot of the drivers spoke up to me, saying that they felt abused. They told me, 'If I wanted to be a taxi driver, I could call up Howie's [taxicab company] or something.'"

"People would say, 'wait while I run in and rent a video,' and that's absurd," Koopman said.

"I'm sick of people abusing Saferide," complained dispatcher Jen Reed. "We get people who want help moving. It's not a safety thing, they just want a free ride."

In response to these abuses,

Miller announced four new policies:

- Saferide will serve Valley River Center, Gateway Mall and Fred Meyer only to take women to or from work or, in the case of an emergency, for other reasons at the dispatcher's discretion.

- Groups of three or more will no longer be given rides, except in emergencies.

- The cars will not wait enroute to a destination.

- Saferide will not carry women for shopping, movies, laundry or other "personal" reasons.

In addition, Saferide service is now limited to Eugene north of 40th Avenue and Donald Street, east of Cityview Street, and north of Park Street off River Road. Saferide will also serve the Springfield bus station located at 5th Avenue and B Street.

"We've never had something written down, 'these are the rides you take, these are the rides you don't,' and that's what we've had to do," Koopman said.

She said that most callers have responded positively to the new policies.

"They seem to understand and don't have a problem with it."

Miller said many women do not intend to abuse the service,

but "the first thing they think of is Saferide. We hope to discourage Saferide dependency to make women think about their other options."

Miller and Koopman suggest women walk in groups to nearby destinations, select a designated driver or take the bus. They stressed, however, that these policies are flexible in emergencies.

"We left a lot of dispatcher discretion. It's not set in stone," Koopman said.

"We're not going to strand anybody," Miller added.

During fall term, Saferide served on average 100 riders per night, Koopman and Miller said, and turned away between 20 and 60 women each night when the two off-campus cars and on-campus van reached capacity.

Fifty women volunteered to drive Saferide vehicles fall term, and about 30 volunteered this term. The service needs 9 drivers each night Sunday through Thursday and 11 on each Saturday and Sunday nights.

Saferide has purchased a new van that will service campus destinations. The new van, a Ford Aerostar, is expected to arrive in four to five weeks.

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# Women's studies focus of lecture series

Tasha Eichenseher  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Center for the Study of Women in Society at the University is offering students and faculty interested in women's studies several opportunities this term to discuss gender issues.

A brownbag lunch series, sponsored by the CSWS, will feature the research directions, methods or findings of last year's recipients of CSWS Research Grants.

The series will begin Jan. 11 with a presentation by Leslie Steeves, an associate professor at the Journalism School. Steeves will talk about her work "Gender Violence and the Press: Print Coverage of the St. Kizito Incident."

Colleen Mack-Canty, a political science graduate student, will present work that she is doing with sociology graduate student Sue Wright on "Feminist Parenting, Feminist Families" Jan. 25.

On Feb. 1, a presentation on "Ina Lange: Finnish-Swedish Pioneer of Racial Equality, or Literary Dilettante?" will be given by Germanic languages and literature professor Kathy Saranpa.

The following brownbag lunch, Feb. 22, will feature Patrice Korjenek and her work on "The Effects of Mandated Employer-Provided Health

Insurance on Women in Oregon."

Sheila Broderick will present "Gender, Society, and Politics in Early New England" on March 1. Broderick is a history graduate student.

During the last lunch, honors college professor Monza Naff and English instructor Anne Laskaya will present their work, "An Article on Paule Marshall's Praisesong for the Widow."

Laskaya described the brownbag lunch series as an informal setting where faculty and graduate students report on work they have done concerning gender issues.

The lunches will be held Wednesdays in room 330 Hendricks Hall from noon to 1 p.m.

This term the CSWS is also sponsoring a get-together for women graduate students.

The goal of the first meeting, which will be Jan. 11 in 330 Hendricks at 3:30, is to find out the needs of graduate students interested in research on women.

Depending on the outcome of the meeting, a drop-in, support or discussion group may be formed.

There will also be drop-in hours from 3-6 p.m. on Jan. 11 in 330 Hendricks where handouts will be made available and assistants will try to answer any questions.

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