

Student's final thesis project stolen

■ **THEFT:** Both a VCR and tape were taken, which may keep a fine arts student from graduating

By Sean Rossol
Higher Education Reporter

A VCR and tape were stolen from an art display in the LaVerne Krause Gallery in Lawrence Hall between 12:15 p.m. and 1 p.m. on Wednesday.

The VCR and film were part of a final thesis project for Terra Montgomery, a bachelor of fine arts student majoring in photography and visual design.

"We know it was a student or someone on campus," Montgomery said. "It's hard to comprehend. It's the art community; it's something in the public space."

Montgomery believes the VCR and film were stolen around noon because she and administrators were in the building at

that time, and the VCR was there before noon.

Montgomery said they have a witness who saw a possible suspect with a large bag.

"It's something a VCR could very easily fit into," she said.

There were unusual circumstances surrounding the theft and a suspicious person was seen in the building, Montgomery said.

The tape inside the VCR was Montgomery's senior thesis project.

"I can't get graded without the film," she said. "There's no way to be critiqued."

Montgomery is planning on graduating as soon as the head of applied arts, Ken O'Connell, critiques her work. She also plans to leave the country as soon as the project is finished.

The film showed black and white photographs that described the connections of images on film and life.

Montgomery said that she has contacted the Office of Public Safety and filed reports there and with the Eugene Police Department.

There is also a soundtrack that goes with the film, according to Montgomery.

"I'm supposed to graduate now," she said. "I can't really redo this. I'm on my way out of the country."

The film, *Trying to Remember*, took Montgomery 10 hours to construct.

"The film was shot on 8 mm and then transferred to video," she said. "Of the things that were stolen, the video was most important. That was the whole exhibition."

Montgomery hopes that whoever stole the video returns it so that she can move on. She says that no questions will be asked if it is returned.

"I just want to graduate," she said.

Experts to discuss why some kids are 'at risk'

■ **SEMINAR:** The two-day conference will emphasize what society can do to help

By Jennifer Schmitt
Higher Education Reporter

Society's role in the development of "at-risk" children and its lack of support for programs that help children will be the focus of the "Children at Risk" conference at the Lane County Fairgrounds this weekend.

The conference, sponsored by the University's Substance Abuse Prevention Program, is intended to help people understand the things they can do both collectively and individually to help "at-risk" children, said Miki Mace, program director of the Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

The five focus areas of the conference are: understanding the genetic, psychological and social complexities surrounding at-risk children;

prevention strategies; intervention; programs that are available; and what can be done by people as a society and individually.

Mace said that "at-risk" children and teens have to overcome obstacles early in life that other people aren't normally faced with. They have been faced with large inconsistencies or stresses such as poverty, neglect and abuse over a long period of time, she said.

"They could be kids who aren't able to trust because they couldn't trust their care-giver when they were younger," Mace said. "They could also face genetic obstacles like children who are born addicted to drugs."

The conference spans two days. Friday's session will focus on spotting and dealing with the negative factors surrounding at-risk children and teens. Saturday's session focuses on how to utilize the positive assets and characteristics of children and teens considered to be "at risk."

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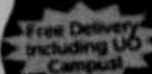
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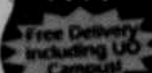
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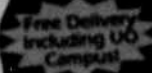
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