

Computers: New act detracts from media merger

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responsible for material it does not know has been sent. Swan said.

Swan said the University is alert to possible indecency on the Internet, but because of the large volume of traffic over the networks, any reaction takes place after abuse has occurred.

Current hearings concerning the act focus on how to define the Internet. In order to determine how to regulate the Internet, the courts must decide if the Internet should be classified as a print or broadcast medium, Gleason said.

"Experts are there to explain the Internet to the courts," said Gleason. "They need to know what this thing is, how it works, and its characteristics."

Because the different classifications of media have various regulations, defining a category for the Internet is vital in legis-

lating it, he said.

The Communications Decency Act is not the only part of the Telecommunications Act that is under scrutiny. Provisions in the Telecommunications Act take away many of the regulations concerning mergers in the media.

"All of the hubbub over the Communications Decency Act is unfortunate because it detracts from other provisions in the act such as media mergers," Aoki said. "A blind eye is being turned toward the dangers of monopoly in the media."

Six or seven major companies control news in the U.S., Aoki said. News used to come from a variety of sources.

Another bill that would regulate the Internet, the White Paper Bill, is being placed before Congress to regulate copyright laws over the Internet.



WHAT IS THE COMMUNICATIONS DECENCY ACT?

The Communication Decency Act, part of the new Telecommunications Act passed by Congress in February, regulates indecent and offensive speech on the Internet and prohibits anyone from knowingly transmitting obscene or indecent materials to people younger than 18. Anyone who sends such material, as well as the network operator, can be held responsible if a minor receives it.

SOURCE: Telecommunications Act



DENNIS BOLTE/emerald

"This ties into the Telecommunications bill because it would have a significant impact on chilling speech," Aoki said. "America OnLine would have to start scanning messages and that is a violation of privacy."

According to this bill, browsing a web page would be a violation of copyright laws, Aoki said. When

opening a web page, the computer makes a copy of it. This copy is deleted when the page is closed, but it would still be considered an infringement of copyright laws if this bill passes, he said.

On-line service providers such as Netcom and America OnLine could be held responsible for copyright infringements.

Man exposes himself to Saferide dispatcher

■ SAFETY: The program will take extra steps to protect staff and volunteers, but the incident will not affect its operation

By Jennifer Carter
Student Activities Editor

Project Saferide staff members are taking extra precautions after a man exposed himself and masturbated by their EMU office window Saturday night.

The incident occurred about 11:30 p.m. while one of Saferide's two dispatchers was out transporting riders. The other dispatcher was in the office alone, giving out instructions over the program's radio.

Carrie Whipple, the office dispatcher, said she was alerted to the perpetrator's presence by a knock on the window. She said when she turned to look out the window she saw a man standing by it with his pants down around his ankles, masturbating. After seeing the man, she called public safety officials.

"My first reaction when I saw him was to call 911," Whipple said.

While Whipple was on the phone with an Eugene Office of Public Safety dispatcher, the man finished masturbating and ran away, Whipple said. At that point, she asked the dispatcher if she could contact the University Office of Public Safety, but the dispatcher told her that OPS had already been alerted.

Whipple said two Eugene police officers arrived approximately 10 minutes later to get a description of the man along with other information.

Whipple said the perpetrator was a white male in his late 20s or early 30s. He was of medium height

and build and had long, dark-brown hair, which he wore in a pony tail. He was wearing a black and blue plaid shirt and black pants.

Whipple, the other Saferide dispatcher working that evening, and Saferide Co-Director Jenna Wasson said they were not contacted by OPS about the incident. About an hour after the incident occurred, Wasson said she called OPS and was told they had a description of the man and were keeping their eyes open for him.

Wasson said the description OPS had was not the same one Whipple gave to police officers because OPS had the suspect listed as a male whose age could have been anywhere between 17 to almost 36.

Stan Reeves, director of public safety, said this age discrepancy is minor compared to getting an accurate description. He said OPS officers did not contact Saferide members because they were conducting an area search for the perpetrator with Eugene police officers.

"We get a call like that and we're basically concerned with getting the bad guys," Reeves said.

He said OPS is aware of the incident and similar ones that occur on and off campus.

"We've got the suspect's information. ... It's in everyone's minds so we can be on the lookout for the suspect and be prepared to deploy rapidly," he said.

As the weather gets warmer, Reeves said he expects these harassing incidents will increase in number.

As a result of Saturday's incident, Wasson said Saferide will be taking precautions, such as keeping their drapes closed in the evening.

"We're going to have to take extra precautions now, but we're not going to stop running," she said.

POLICE BEAT

■ Two men were cited for trespassing at the Amazon Family Housing complex last Saturday after they were caught looking in a dumpster for lumber. The two were charged with Theft II and are scheduled to appear in court April 22. Their bail was posted at \$255 per person.

■ About \$1,900 worth of property was stolen from a car sometime between 7 p.m. on Saturday and noon on Sunday at 791 E. 15th Ave. Among the items stolen were a car phone and golf clubs.

■ A rental car had \$673 worth of property stolen from it at the New Oregon Best Western Motel and Restaurant on 1665 Franklin Blvd. sometime between 7:30 p.m. on Friday and 7 a.m. on Saturday. The man who had rented the car was from Texas.

■ A stereo was stolen from a car at 1123 E. 21st Ave. sometime between 6:30 p.m. Thursday and 11:15 a.m. Friday. Three of the tires on the car were slashed as well.

■ A guitar, valued at \$450, was stolen from a Northwest Christian College music room between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Thursday.

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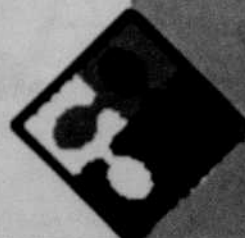
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