

## Blind fate



AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

This sculpture by Ted Okell titled "Oedipal Rex" is on display in the craft center. The art show starts today in the EMU Fir Room and will showcase student work.

## Investigation clears police of excessive force on June 1

The Lane County district attorney said 35 of 36 incidents involving the use of force were legal

By Tricia Duryee  
Community Reporter

Lane County District Attorney Douglass Harclerod called a news conference Thursday afternoon to reveal the results of an extensive investigation into the use of force by Eugene police officers in the June 1 tree-cutting protest.

Assistant District Attorney Curt Conover determined that out of the 36 different events involving the people protesting the removal of trees that day, 35 did not involve the use of excessive force.

The one event in question that had what Harclerod considered "conflicting evidence" will be reviewed by special prosecutor Jason Charlike, Linn County district attorney. Harclerod said he could have made the decision in as little as two weeks.

"In summary, we have concluded that in 35 of the 36 events the Eugene police officers' use of force individually and collectively did not violate any of the criminal statutes of the state of Oregon," Harclerod said.

In determining the outcome, Har-

clerod said Conover spent over 300 hours analyzing the incident since receiving the information from the Oregon State Police in October.

"He studied police reports from the Eugene Police Department and the Oregon State Police, still photographs obtained from private citizens as well as the Eugene Police Department, video tapes from the Eugene Police Department, the news agencies and the 'Cop Watch' edited video."

However, a statement issued by Cop Watch said the evidence that Harclerod and Conover used from the Oregon State Police investigation was not valid. "Police investigating police is not going to get to the bottom of it," said Tim Lewis, a Cop Watch videographer who taped the incident.

Harclerod said the public should come away from this experience knowing that they conducted extensive investigations, carefully made decisions and that "the police officers were verbally, physically abused and in some instances exercised a lot of constraint in a lot of situations that we expect law enforcement to have."

Lewis didn't agree with the analysis. "All of the violence that happened that day was precipitated by police actions. Period."

## Curfew: Torrey talked with students

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people doesn't mean they are law breakers. They have a right not to be questioned by the police.

"We are sending a bad message to kids that just because of their status, they are a suspect."

Although Torrey said it may be an infringement of rights, he also thought a lot of other things could be as well.

"I'm not going to argue with [the ACLU] on that," he said. "I think what I'm going to try to accomplish before we bring an ordinance to the council is the ability to show sufficient benefit to the community, which includes the young people that are being impacted negatively."

The program begins on the street level. A truant or police officer would be able to pick up youths and ask them why they are not in school. The officer would then take the youths back to school and notify the parents.

Nothing goes on their permanent record. "It is not to criminalize," Torrey said. "The program allows the authority to pick up and take the child to school. It is a joint program, with the city of Eugene, police department, schools and par-

ents."

However, what Torrey didn't anticipate, and what has made the curfew even more complicated, is what to do with the children who have no parents or guardians, or have been suspended or expelled because they disrupt school. By law, youth between the ages of 7 and 18 are required to attend school.

"They have to be going to some school, and it is our responsibility to develop an alternative school," Torrey said. "We are not enforcing this right now because we aren't able to."

Therefore, an alternative school or truancy center would have to be created to account for youth who can't cope with a traditional school setting.

Torrey visited Churchill High School on Monday to address the concerns of students, and he will be going to other schools in the future to explain what would really happen if the curfew was enacted. "Stories get embellished," he said.

Steve Copeland, who attended a meeting by the Committee on Homelessness and Youth, said that the youth are concerned about the curfew. However, he didn't think it was that

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Jim Torrey  
Eugene Mayor

bad of an idea.

"At least it's on [the kids'] minds," Copeland said. "It says, 'They care about me,' in a weird sort of way. It is something to think about before they go hang out in the mall. Now it's, 'Wait a minute — they care.'"

Although the daytime curfew has faced a lot of controversy, Torrey said: "I am convinced the community is ready to provide the services, but they are also expecting in return that the young people will have some responsibility for their action."

"It is not sufficient in saying that they don't want to be [in school]."

## Knight hours still up for debate

One librarian proposed borrowing hours from the weekend to use during the week

By Doug Irving  
Student Activities Editor

The University Library Committee decided Thursday it needs more information before it can decide whether to change library hours.

The committee discussed minor hour changes and created a special team to survey students and develop a more definite plan. It did not enact any actual changes.

The proposal on the table, courtesy of the ASUO, asked that Knight Library be kept open from 7:30 a.m. to midnight. Oregon State's main library keeps those hours.

University librarian George Shipman quickly denied that request on financial grounds: He estimated it would cost thousands of extra dollars each year.

The University library system has overspent its budget by at least \$400,000 each year, he explained. It's also looking at a \$600,000 budget cut next year.

"I haven't got it, I'm already in debt, I'm going deeper in debt," Shipman said.

Instead, he proposed borrowing hours from the weekend and tacking them onto weekday hours. Specifically, he suggested keeping the library open from 8 a.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday, but closing at 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Student Senator Michelle Johnston, the only student government representative at the meeting, said she wanted more time to discuss that idea with the ASUO. She said students have brought grievances to the Senate about library hours, and she worried whether the proposal would answer those concerns.

Committee member Lucy Lynch said the committee didn't have enough information to decide anything. She suggested a survey inside the library that would ask students the hours they'd use the library, what they'd use it for, and what students would do with the extra time.

An ASUO survey last term found that 97.2 percent of the students surveyed wanted Knight Library open at least until midnight. More than half those surveyed said education at the University suffers because of the lack of places to study.

That survey, though, may not

be accurate enough to act on, committee member Jim Schombert said.

The ASUO surveyed students outside the library — a sample that might not represent actual library users, he said. Library use also fluctuates during the term, with more use at the end and middle.

Any survey the committee approves will likely last several months to take these cycles into account. Because of that, no hour changes are likely until at least next term.

The ASUO will continue its campaign for longer hours, Vice President Ben Unger said. It plans to resurrect its book drive, asking students to demand longer hours in writing on the covers of donated books. The books will be delivered to the provost's office in late February.

The library committee is at least taking the ASUO seriously, Unger said. Still, its current time line won't help this term, and the ASUO had hoped for longer hours this week.

"It seems slow," Unger said. "Sometimes it's frustrating — you always think things can get done faster than they can. But it's a positive sign that they're looking for creative solutions."



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New Celebration 9:45<sup>am</sup>

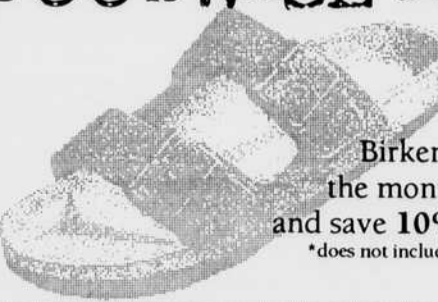
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