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Safety

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out of five.

This trend is linked to alcohol-related crime.

Within the campus area, the Office of Public Safety reported 194 alcohol-related arrests in 1997, compared to 58 in 1996. Part of this jump can be attributed to the implementation of a no-tolerance policy by OPS.

Organizers of the event want to emphasize that drinking and safety are interrelated issues.

"What we are trying to do is help students realize that they can jeopardize themselves when they make decisions while drinking," said Byron McCrae, assistant dean of student life and host of the alcohol-awareness clinic. "The point is to make students ask themselves if they are making dangerous choices when they drink."

The clinic McCrae hosted featured a lecture, discussion and an interactive CD-ROM game called Alcohol 101. McCrae hopes that the game will show students that they have other options besides binge drinking.

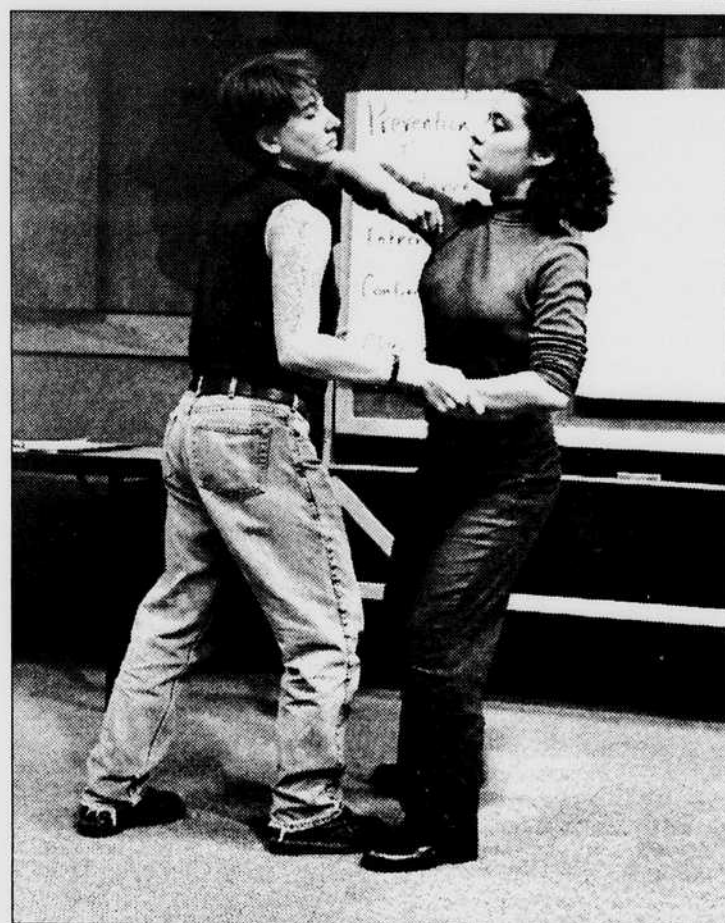
"What I want to do is let students know that alcohol-related choices are part of taking individual control for your actions," he said.

Rape is another part of the motivation for having the Campus Safety Day of Action. OPS reported two forcible sexual assaults in the campus community last year.

Sexual Assault Support Services encouraged people to learn ways to protect themselves against this problem by sponsoring self-defense classes.

SASS is a community organization that helps women who are victims of crime or who are interested in protecting themselves against potential assailants.

"We are by no means experts at self-defense, but there are some simple things that you can learn to protect yourself," said Janet Fiskio, one of the instructors.



Scott Barnett/Emerald

Jasmine Gonzalez-Rose of SASS and community educator Janet Fiskio demonstrate self-defense techniques at the Campus Safety Day of Action.

"Part of self-defense is the verbal stuff. It's knowing when and how to be assertive."

The ASUO Outreach Program is hoping that this event will be the first of many efforts to promote safety on campus, Jagodnik said.

"Right now we are thinking that self-defense classes would be a good thing to do all year," she said. "We are also interested in working with students, OPS and the physical plant to see where students would like more lighting. Hopefully we can get the cost reduced and make it happen."

Who to contact:

- OPS emergency: 346-6666
- Designated Driver Shuttle: 346-7433
- Saferide reservation line: 346-4239
- Sexual Assault Support Services crisis line: 485-6700
- Tandem Taxi: 346-8294
- Womenspace crisis line: 485-6513

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ADVENTURE IN TRAVEL

Travel

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you will get to your destination on time.

"The best you can do is plan for the worst and hope for the best," he said.

For those students staying in town for the holidays, the city of Eugene is not too worried about the upcoming inclement weather.

"We really took this past storm in stride because it was not that significant compared to other storms," said Philip Weiler, city of Eugene spokesman.

The storm caused no significant disruption of traffic or loss of life, Weiler said. There was a fairly short duration of wind and only a few trees fell. Eugene is fortunate, he said.

As far as flooding goes, Eugene is generally OK, Weiler said. There would be a flooding problem if the city lost power because the water pumps wouldn't work, he said.

"There is a leaf pack-up project in progress so leaves don't get caught in street basins and cause flooding," he said.

City of Eugene maintenance director Gene Shutt said leaves can be a constant problem in times of bad weather.

"We try to encourage people to put their leaves out on the street to be picked up so they are not blocking the sewer system," Shutt said.

Shutt said he hopes there won't be any snow over Thanksgiving and the holiday season, but the city is keeping the necessary equipment prepared just in case. Public Works has a large crew, and they're pretty confident that they can handle any minor problem, he said.

"We have chainsaws for trees, emergency lighting and a sander in the event of freezing," he said.

Felicity Ayles covers city development and the West University neighborhood for the Emerald.

TRAVEL DANGERS

Traffic accidents in Oregon, Thanksgiving 1996

13 deaths
447 injuries
566 total traffic accidents

Traffic accidents in Oregon, Thanksgiving 1997

3 deaths
364 injuries
402 total traffic accidents

For complete road condition information, travelers can call the Oregon Department of Transportation at 1-800-977-ODOT(6368). This recording gives a complete weather advisory and the current road conditions.

Source: Oregon State Police

Oregon Emerald

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