

Oregon Daily Emerald



Weather forecast

Today Partly cloudy High 72, Low 45
Saturday Sunny High 81, Low 48



Mountain Mysticism

The University Theatre presents 'Dark of the Moon' / SECTION B



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Students unite to end violence

Raising awareness of sexual assault was the goal of the Take Back the Night March

By Jason George
Oregon Daily Emerald

The community turned out Wednesday night to say enough-is-enough.

Beginning in the EMU Amphitheater, over 300 people attended the annual Take Back the Night March, which featured booths, music, speakers and the march itself. The mission was to raise awareness of sexual assault and "to show support for the survivors," said Valerie Wright, events coordinator for the Women's Center.

Hosted by the Women's Center and the Sexual Assault Support Services, the march is an annual event, in its 21st year in the United States. The rally began at 7 p.m., with participants making signs to carry during the march. Christine Scott of Eugene brought her daughter Sophie, 7, to the event because she felt this was an important event for them to attend. "One, it is important as a woman, and two, it is important because she is going to be a woman," Scott said.

Scott's sign read, "Violence Perpetuates the Problem."

Lisa Foisy, director of the Women's Center and a sexual assault survivor, said that the event was a positive night for her. She hoped education and awareness of all types of violence against women were realized by the people in attendance. "To be part of a community and to say 'look how many survivors we have,'" was also an intention of the event, according to Foisy.

Just as the sun set and the music of Mare Wakefield ended, the speakers took the stage. The first speaker was University Alumnus Robert Wasson. Wasson spoke to all of the students, but particularly addressed the men in the audience several times. "I challenge each of them to not just show up ... but to make it relevant everyday in your lives."

A workshop for men was held in the EMU Walnut Room to discuss what could be done by these men to end male violence. The workshop was presented

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Catharine Kendall/Emerald

Participants paint signs to hold during the parade, one of many activities that made up Take Back the Night.

Thurston students find solace in words

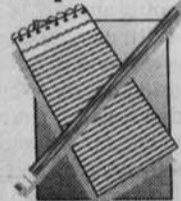
One year after the shooting, students use poems and personal writing to heal

By Jack Clifford
Oregon Daily Emerald

The secretary in Thurston High School's main office is asking why a reporter is on campus grounds. It's 10 days after the Littleton, Colo., killings, and I'm here to interview two students for an article to be published on the one-year anniversary of Thurston's tragedy.

Reporter's

There is supposed to be a ban on all news media on the school's campus, though, and she is rightfully questioning my presence. As I stand at the desk, similar thoughts enter my mind.



Notebook

Vultures. We in the media have been called that and worse. If it bleeds, it leads. Some people say that's our unofficial creed, and who in our profession can argue otherwise?

Don't we all remember the front-page photo in The Register-Guard the day after Thurston's shooting incident? Didn't seeing the crush of TV trucks and swarm of "journalists" posted outside the school's memorial fence make us queasy?

Jenny Huck, an 18-year-old Thurston senior and editor of The Paragon, Thurston's literary magazine, finally comes to bail me out. She has agreed, along with Paragon staffer Chalan Moon, 17, to sit and talk about ... well, I guess about writing and its therapeutic powers.

Later this day, an exhibit at the Springfield Museum will show through paintings, sculptures and other art forms how teens cope with the issue

Thurston commentary

of violence. Jenny chooses poetry instead to escape her maddening teen years. She volunteers a sample of her writing, and

Springfield Mayor Maureen Maine comments on the community's recovery

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one passage seemingly cries from the page: "same emotions / different location / always destructive. / hollowing communities / with youth violence / covering sobrieties / in a whispered silence."

Her focus in writing, Jenny offers, is to reach out somehow to others, to show them that the feeling of hurt is universal.

"If I can help stop that from happening again, then I'll take a chance with it because I know how it feels," she says. "I don't want other people to go through this."

After Kip Kinkel, then 15 years old, allegedly went on his rampage, real people died, and real people were injured. But an abstract being, the local community, suffered injuries as well. Jenny guesses that half the folks in Eugene and Springfield have since poured out their emotions onto pieces of paper.

Chalan admits that his writing took a turn after Thurston High ended up in the nation-

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Turn to THURSTON, Page 4A

Students want written support of diversity from UO

Activists want the University to create a new position to specifically promote diversity

By David Ryan and Maritza Ryciak
Oregon Daily Emerald

In the wake of Tuesday's nine-hour sit-in, student activists are working to supply the University with something colleges from Santa Barbara to Cambridge, Mass., have — written support of diversity.

A committee of administrators, student activists and a University senator began drafting a statement of support for racial and social minorities Thursday morning.

The meeting came two days after 31 protesters were arrested for trespassing

during a sit-in at Johnson Hall. The sit-in started from what some students called a racist comment made in a planning, public policy and management class last week.

Following a class discussion over an e-mail listserv, student John Convy allegedly made threats of sexual violence toward at least three women.

April Reeves, a student committee member, said a statement of support would allow the administration to set an example to respect diversity.

"To accomplish that, you must first have a commitment," she said.

Students on the committee said they will draft a proposed statement today. Reeves said the statement will focus on diversity

education and awareness, developing effective programs and providing a supportive education environment.

Nathaniel Bachelder, another student committee member, said diversity is about educating people how to deal with each other in a melting-pot environment.

"The point of the University is to prepare us for life after college," he said. "If people find hatred is acceptable here, they're going to think hatred is acceptable after they graduate."

Other universities' support programs have given student activists a reason to demand something similar from the administration.

"We want to light a fire under their ass-