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Police working to prevent Halloween riot

■ An exclusive meeting was held Tuesday to discuss the issue, and a public meeting is being scheduled

By Darren Freeman
Oregon Daily Emerald

With Halloween approaching, the University and the Eugene Police Department are brainstorming ways to curb drinking-related confrontations with police and prevent a repeat of the past two years' riots.

An invitation-only Tuesday morning meeting in the EMU Oak Room kicked off a series of meetings addressing the issue. ASUO Vice President Mitra Anoushiravani; City Manager Jim Johnson; Office of Public Safety Director of Campus Operations George Hecht; several police officers, including Chief of Police James Hill and three University administrators attended the meeting.

A handful of tentative ideas to ease tension between police and

party-goers was discussed at the meeting, said Anne Leavitt, associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students. Most of the ideas involved increasing communication and understanding among University students, the community and EPD, she said.

The ideas included requesting University officials to accompany police Friday and Saturday nights to observe students' interaction with police, asking landlords to discourage illegal parties and educating the community about safety and legal issues involved with partying, Leavitt said.

Prevention and preparation for a possible riot on Halloween was also discussed, Anoushiravani said. The University will sponsor a handful of alternative events and the police department will increase its presence over Halloween weekend.

Anoushiravani, the only student allowed to attend the Tuesday meeting, said more dialogue between students and police is

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Mitra Anoushiravani
 ASUO vice president

needed in discussions addressing alcohol abuse, arrests and riots. She said she would have liked to see more students at the meeting but was pleased to be able to attend.

"This was the first time that a student perspective has been brought into the picture three weeks before Halloween," Anoushiravani said after the meeting.

EPD officials at the meeting voiced concern about increased resentment toward police among college-aged party guests.

Sergeant Gilliam, the EPD officer assigned to campus, said

after the meeting that police have already had to break up a number of large, disorderly parties this year, and more people have been going to jail for interfering with police than in past years.

Police officials said a large part of the problem is a lack of understanding between party-goers and police. Often, party hosts who interfere with police are unaware that officers can enter a home if there is probable cause to suspect a law has been broken, Gilliam said.

Another possible cause of the resentment is that some students feel that police are cracking down on partying and assuming that students are going to riot, Anoushiravani said.

The next meeting, tentatively set for next week, will be open to the public and attended by police officers, University officials, local businesses, property owners and other community members. Other discussions are in the making, but no agendas or dates have been set at this time.

Insurance

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dents choose to sign up. Those who do sign up tend to be people with pre-existing conditions, people who know they will need insurance. This forces insurance companies to raise costs even higher, Byrd said.

"It's a vicious cycle," he said. The task force hopes to end that cycle by finding ways for insurance to be affordable and accessible for students, he said.

The task force will examine the student health insurance plans in other areas.

"We want to find out if there's any applicability for us," she said.

Suggestions from insurance companies will be solicited. Rather than the traditional approach of going to insurance companies with a proposal in mind, the task force plans to ask insur-

ance companies what they can do for the OUS, she said.

"The issue of mandatory insurance is a maybe," Dickenson said.

Proponents say that mandatory insurance will solve the problem of adverse selection by increasing the pool of insured students.

Opponents of mandatory insurance object to paying for the insurance of others.

Both sides of the issue will be examined by the task force, Dickenson said.

"We are going to explore all possible insurance configurations for students," Dickenson said. "International students, students with disabilities, single students, students with partners — students in the expanded sense."

The task force will present its findings to the OUS board meeting in January.

David Spade

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forum might be able to bring other comedians to the University, he said. The forum is already looking at the possibility of booking former Saturday Night Live star Adam Sandler for an April performance, he said.

"If we turn a profit, then it will go towards other shows at the end of the year," Clayman said. "If we sell out and actually make some money, then stuff like that will be

really possible."

Josh Burt, Cultural Forum coordinator, said the forum is already planning other events to bring to campus, including the band Deep Banana Blackout, which will perform in Agate Hall on Oct. 21.

Burt said that some students who attend the Deep Banana show will be provided the opportunity to see Spade for free.

"We're raffling off tickets for the David Spade show during the Deep Banana Blackout show," he said.

Chakraborty

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Chakraborty chose to move to the United States in order to further his research.

"I wanted to do higher research, and the only way to accomplish that is in the United States," Chakraborty said. "Research is limited in India because there are not many people to talk with."

Chakraborty said he gets good vibes from this University, and he expects to gain much from his experience here.

"I am able to share and talk with other professors about research," Chakraborty said. "That's how you learn to do research by talking to others, and this department is offering that to me."

The department is feeling positive about his position as well.

"He is different from and com-

plementary to the people that we already have in our department," economics professor Jo Anna Gray said. "He fits into a nice place in our department."

Chakraborty goals are to eventually travel back to India to see how to apply theories and connect on a grass roots level with his research. But, he said he isn't planning on leaving the University anytime soon.

Calendar

Wednesday, Oct. 13

The Health Education Program, run through the University Health Center, will offer students free blood cholesterol testing in the lobby of the Student Recreation Center in Esslinger Hall, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the Health Education Program at 346-4456.

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