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News Brief

Businesses suffer damage after small grease fire

A small grease fire in the China Blue Inn restaurant turned into a small flood in the University Bookstore and Blue Heron Bicycles Monday night.

The China Blue Inn kitchen, located above the bookstore on East

13th Avenue, was empty when the fire started. Sprinklers extinguished the flames.

But Kristen Sheley, an employee in the computer and photo section of the bookstore, said a mix of water and grease began gushing through the ceiling onto the computers and equipment below.

"We frantically worked to get the computers unplugged," said Sheley, who called 911 when the leak-

ing began.

Eugene Fire Department Lt. Audie Eggleston said the seven units that responded spent about two hours removing the water in the restaurant and the bookstore. He said there were no injuries, and damage estimates are not yet known.

The fire department removed about an inch of standing water and employees placed tarps over the carpet

Crowds

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did nothing to control the problem.

"I was just annoyed that I had already asked security once to tell [the group] to move," Methvin said. "Everyone around us was frustrated, and I was pissed I was getting pushed and knocked over."

In the third quarter, Methvin briefly blacked out when one of the students elbowed her in the head. Her boyfriend, Paul Williams, a sophomore sports marketing major, caught Methvin and carried her out of the stands. She was transported by paramedics to Sacred Heart Hospital, where she was diagnosed with a concussion.

"The incident could have been prevented," Methvin said, who was at home recovering Sunday night. "Security could have told the group, 'You need to move, settle down or

leave the game.'"

Events Manager Vicki Strand in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics has the weight of crowd control on her shoulders. She contracts with the Star Plex Crowd Management firm and the EPD to regulate events such as football games.

"The hardest part about crowd management is that there is a thin line between protecting the fans from themselves and from their surroundings," Strand said.

She said a day game generates about six ejections, while a night game may generate more than two dozen.

EPD Capt. Thad Buchanan said the number of problems depend on the rivalry and intensity at the game.

Strand agreed and said home games have fewer problems when the Ducks are winning because fans are excited and more interested in the game.

McCarthy said many students become more dangerous because they incorrectly think they know their

rights and refuse to cooperate with officers.

CMS Supervisor Dan Knauss said his group mostly handles duplicate tickets in the student section and people standing in the aisles, which must remain clear as fire lanes.

Knauss said there tends to be more intoxicated students at evening games.

"The most prevalent occurrence is standing room only ticket holders trying to get into the seating areas," Knauss said.

When the students rush the field at the end of the game, CMS protects the team and referees as they leave the field and maintain general crowd safety.

Senior Associate Athletic Director Sandy Walton said CMS and the EPD are people who have been in the same positions for a long time.

"People are dedicated to what they do. They're professionals," Walton said.

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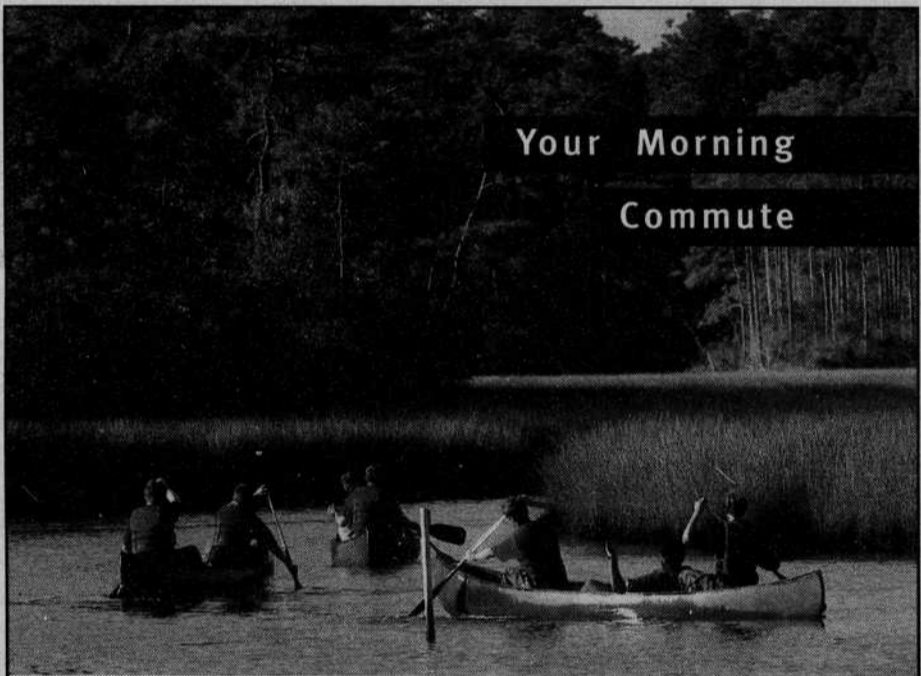
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