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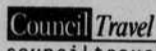
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Theft common on campus

DPS recommends that students keep a close eye on their property and report all thefts

By Aaron K. Breniman
Oregon Daily Emerald

Most people don't think going to the bathroom or checking out a library book is a big deal. However, if they lost a backpack or purse in the process, they might think otherwise.

There have been a significant number of personal property thefts reported on campus lately. Last week, the Department of Public Safety received a half-dozen reports of stolen property from the library, which doesn't include bicycle thefts.

DPS Associate Director Thomas Hicks estimates that each year, the department receives about 150 to 300 reports of larceny, crimes involving property with a value of less than \$500. Library personnel said they direct any complaints or reports of thefts to the Department of Public Safety.

Personal property theft is the top crime on campus, Hicks said.

Some students think that the University area provides a sense of security and don't take the possibility of theft seriously.

"When I'm off campus, I keep a close eye on my bag," University senior Joe Becker said while sitting in the library. "When I'm on campus, I usually don't worry."

"It's my stuff. I don't even think anyone would want it - it's kind of crappy."

Jen Laplant
senior,
psychology

Jen Laplant, a senior psychology major, stood making copies, looking through a window at the table where she'd left her property. She said she never thinks about losing it.

"It's my stuff," she said. "I don't even think anyone would want it - it's kind of crappy."

Hicks said that the most significant action resulting in theft is students leaving their property

unattended.

"I can't stress enough how often that's the case," he said. "I wouldn't even recommend asking someone to watch your property, unless you knew you could trust them. It's just not a good idea."

Sometimes the cost of replacing a bag or books may only be part of the problem, in comparison to what's in the bag.

"All the time I take my bag with me," education graduate student Tom Lindberg said. "It's not the monetary value - it's the ideas."

DPS statistics only represent the thefts that people actually report, which are only a fraction of the total thefts on campus.

It's important for students to report thefts to the department, no matter how minuscule the theft may seem, Hicks said.

The department regularly receives property left in buildings or other areas of campus. If a theft victim has reported the theft, the odds that he or she will get the property back are substantially improved, Hicks said.

"If we go through some recovered property and are unable to find any identification, then we turn to the reports," Hicks said.

Courthouse

continued from page 1A

Downtown Visioning Project, which has been studying and seeking methods to revitalize and expand the downtown area.

"This is the next step in attempting to revitalize Eugene - from the west end to the east end," said City Councilor Nancy Nathanson. "This is a major step in implementing the vision for the city in the next 20 years."

The new courthouse will also feature many attractions to entice the public, including a recreational riverfront area and art.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Michael Hogan said the building will be designed by a world-

renowned architect and an additional \$1 million will be allocated to incorporate art into its design.

The new building will also be one of 10 buildings in the country that will be a new model for security, he said, adding that security will be subtle and not detract from the appearance and community feeling of the building.

"This site provides an excellent opportunity to realize the city's vision for downtown," Development Manager Lee Bowers said.

Before addressing the crowd, Torrey met with cannery workers and emphasized to the crowd that the City Council's decision came after Chiquita's decision to close the facility.

"None of us take lightly people

losing their jobs," he said, and invited the cannery workers to come to talk to him and the council.

The city is negotiating to acquire the AutoCraft Body and Glass property across from the cannery site, which would improve access to the new courthouse. According to a resolution reaffirming council support for the location, the council supports the attempt to acquire AutoCraft through negotiations, but said that if necessary, the city would support condemnation, provided AutoCraft receives fair market value for its property.

AutoCraft attorney Steve Cornacchia was out of his office Thursday and could not be reached for comment.

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