

Officers' pepper spray use approved by citizen group

■ The City of Eugene Police Commission voted in favor of recommendations for the use of pepper spray

By Aaron K. Breniman
Oregon Daily Emerald

Though critics think the use of pepper spray is dangerous and should be banned, the Police Commission continues to endorse it as a means of ensuring compliance with officer orders.

The City of Eugene Police Commission, a citizen advisory group that advises the City Council, voted Thursday to approve recommendations presented by the Police Com-

mission Use of Force Committee regarding the use of Oleoresin Capsicum aerosol spray, commonly known as pepper spray.

"With the changing tools of law enforcement, you don't have to be a [6-foot-6-inch], 200 pound male to do this job," said Steve Swensen, special operations captain for the Eugene Police Department. "We need to make sure it is as safe as we can for the people out there and the officers. If you don't want to be pepper sprayed, don't fight — comply."

The recommendations state that the spray should not be used punitively and will not be used in instances of passive resistance, which

the committee defined as "non-compliance with an officer's orders unaccompanied by any active or physical resistance," such as when a protester lies limp on the ground. However, if the protester was holding on to a tree to avoid arrest, that would classify the resistance as 'static.'

Originally used by U.S. Postal Service letter carriers, pepper spray used by the EPD has come under fire in recent years from critics who say its use is unwarranted and excessive.

Most of the incidents that have drawn criticism from the public have involved political protesters.

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University alumnus opens the Coolest Shop in West Eugene

■ Garth Marriott's store offers a variety of goods from motorized scooters to Transformer T-shirts

By Chris Ryan
for the Emerald

Entrepreneur Garth Marriott was looking for a place to expand his online pop culture retail store and an opportunity to interact face-to-face with his customers. The 25-year-old University alumnus found the perfect location to set up shop — his hometown of Eugene — and he now offers the latest in "cool" stuff.

Cooler Shop, located at 970 W. 7th Ave., opened in late April and sells the latest clothing, gadgets and sports items. The inventory covers everything from Transformers T-shirts to motorized scooters.

"Most of this stuff isn't found in Eugene," Marriott said. "And every week we try to get in new stuff."

Cooler Shop carries more than 100 different items in the store, but just one of each item. The result is a store that is open and roomy yet densely packed with a variety of content.

Though Cooler Shop opened rather recently, Marriott's business started online in May 2000. Marriott, who is editor in chief of Elixir Magazine, said he got the idea for Cooler Shop from the magazine's "Coolest Stuff" issue.

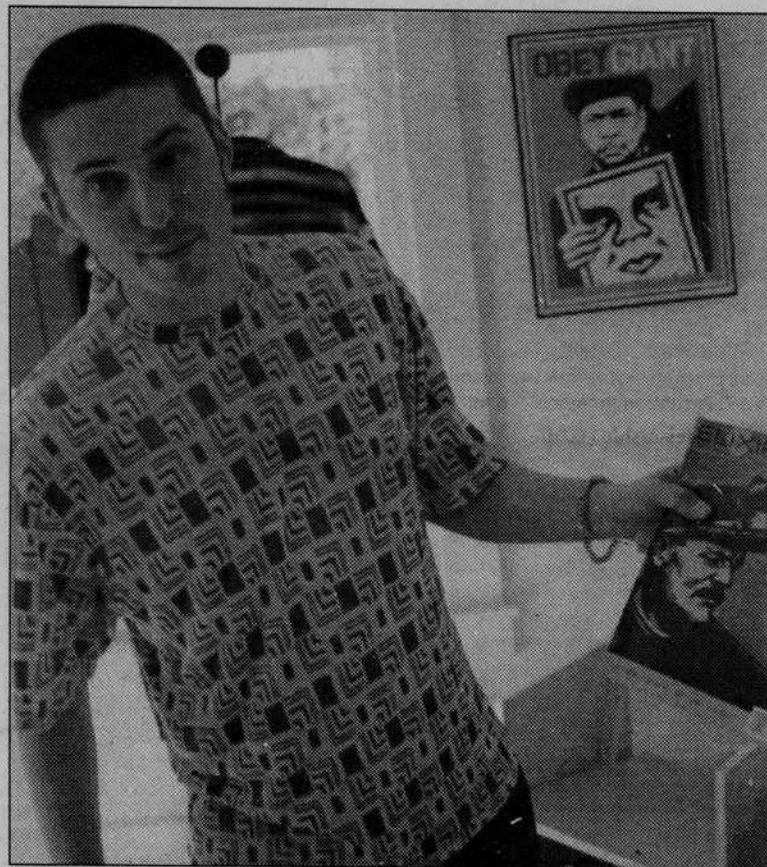
Elixir magazine started six years ago at the University, and now prints 15,000 copies and can be found in all 50 states and in 10 different countries.

"It's still Elixir magazine, but at the same time, we're trying to do anything we can to make Elixir function as a promotional tool for Cooler Shop," Marriott said.

In turn, his associates at Elixir help him select the products that Cooler Shop carries.

"We sit around Garth's office and try on samples of clothes," said Chad Boutin, Elixir's photography editor. "We, as a collaborative effort, give our opinions."

With the launching of Cooler Shop, Marriott said one of his goals is to create a place where he can pick and choose from many distributors so that only his favorite items will be sold. He said that as a child he was never able to find a single store that he was



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Owner Garth Marriott opened the Cooler Shop on 970 W. 7th Ave. in April after almost a year of running his business exclusively online.

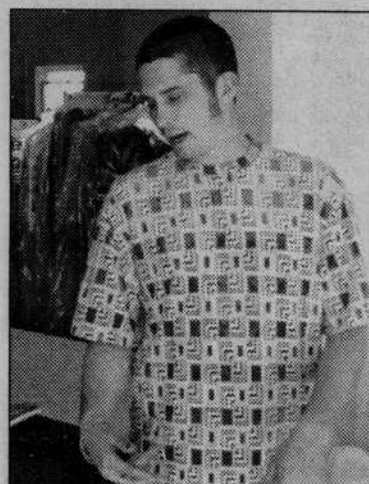
happy with, so he created his own.

He uses his connections with companies that provided slides and clothing samples for the "Coolest Stuff" issue of Elixir to get products for the store, he said.

Though the online store has been successful, Marriott chose to open up a store in Eugene not only to meet his customers, but also so he could get feedback on products first-hand and display the free samples that were accumulating in his office.

Marriott graduated from the University in 1997 with a major in fine arts and a minor in business. After spending a few years managing Elixir and getting Cooler Shop off the ground, Marriott has returned to the University to take a business class.

Marriott keeps Cooler Shop open from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and noon to 7 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Now that Cooler Shop has opened, Marriott is working hard on bringing people in, though he has yet to do any advertising, he said. The store gets



Jon House Emerald

Marriott is also editor in chief of Elixir Magazine, which cross-promotes the clothes featured at the Cooler Shop.

about 10 to 20 customers a day, but Marriott said he expects that number to increase as the business stays around longer.

Marriott said a good idea is only part of what it takes to run a successful business, it also requires planning. "I feel like I'm on the verge of having a profitable business," he said.

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