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STUDENTS UNITE TO TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

People chanted and marched and entertained at the ninth annual Take Back the Night rally Thursday

By Danielle Gillespie
Oregon Daily Emerald

Sexy and cute, radical to boot, angry and tough — these women say they've had enough of sexual assault.

Thursday in the EMU Amphitheater, more than a hundred people gathered to cheer on a group of 11 radical cheerleaders dressed in bright clothing at the ninth annual Take Back the Night rally.

The radical cheerleaders have been supporting women's empowerment throughout this year and have performed at the rallies "No More Silence" and "No More Curfews On Campus."

"We are political activists," radical cheerleader Mary Ann Gates said. "We are radical women cheering about the power of women to take care of themselves at night."

Take Back the Night, hosted by the ASUO Women's Center and Sexual Assault Support Services, started with a singing performance from reggae artist Norma Fraser, who used to sing with Bob Marley and The Wailers. University students Martha Mosqueda and Rachael Opperman also gave singing performances at the event. Mosqueda performed songs she had written, while Opperman performed one by singer Tori Amos.

Along with the singing performances, the event featured a number of speakers. Womenspace member Stephanie Carnahan spoke about same-sex partner violence, while Eugene citizen Sherri Wright talked about transgender issues. In addition, University Counseling Center psychologist Jon Davies spoke about men and their alliance against sexual assault. South Eugene High School student Sifra Morrison also talked about youth issues and the need for justice for young women.

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Adam Amato Emerald

Ceila 'Starshine' Levine applauds the Radical Cheerleaders at the Take Back the Night rally Thursday. Levine attended 'to speak up against all forms of violence against women.'

Robbery suspects escape capture

Two men who reportedly robbed an LCC student fled the scene before police arrived

By Brad Schmidt
Oregon Daily Emerald

With weapons drawn, police surrounded 1871 Harris Alley at 4 p.m. Wednesday, searching for two men suspected of robbing a Lane Community College student at gunpoint inside the Kampus Quads.

The suspects fled with keys to a white Chevrolet Impala and an endorsed check before police arrived at the scene, Eugene Police Department spokeswoman Pam Alejandre said.

Police named Travis C. Ramsey as one suspect. Ramsey is believed to be in his 20s and is described as a dark-haired, 6-foot 3-inch Caucasian male, weighing about 170 pounds. Police described the other suspect as a 5-foot 5-inch black male, weighing 160 pounds and believed to be in his 30s.

The victim, Wendy Renee Dolph, is an acquaintance Ramsey, Alejandre said.

Alejandre said Dolph told police she thought the suspect might be upset because she did not buy an automobile owned by him.

According to police reports, Dolph left her boyfriend and the suspects at the Kampus Quads on

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Mail ballots today — drop off by Tuesday

Voters still have four days to return ballots for the May 21 mail-in primary, but election officials say the lack of interest so far may defeat several city ballot measures.

"It's going to be a hard job for those who want a 50 percent turnout," said Lane County Elections official Annette Newingham.

The success of the city measures, which aim to appropriate money for a new fire station, will help fund the city's library and raise money for the 4J school district, all dependent on whether 50 percent of registered voters participate. Oregon's double-majority law requires ballot measures concerning taxpayer funding to be

approved by more than half of all registered voters.

Lane County Elections figures, as of Thursday night, indicated only 17.5 percent of Eugene's 78,533 voters have returned their ballots thus far. More than 17.8 percent of Lane County's 181,189 registered voters have returned their ballot.

Today marks the last day voters can mail in their ballots and ensure the elections office receives them in time for the May 21 deadline. After today, students should drop off their ballots at the EMU first-floor location near the ASUO controller's window.

— Brook Reinhard



Russell Weller Emerald

Voters beware: Ballots turned into this round receptacle outside the Erb Memorial Union may not make it to the Lane County elections office.