

SAFETY First

Police and the University are getting the word to students to be safe on Halloween

Jenny Sherman
Freelance Reporter

The Eugene Police Department is working with the University to help ensure the safety of students and the surrounding neighborhoods for Halloween. After large riots on Oct. 31 in 1996, 1997 and 1998, law enforcement agencies in Lane County have become especially wary of the holiday. EPD Special Operations Captain Steve Swenson said the police are trying to stop bad situations early.

"We are trying to ward off problems before they develop," Swenson said. Officers will be doing increased patrols this Halloween, along with increased special operations that will scout neighborhoods frequently. Swenson also said Springfield police are only a call away if they are needed. He added he believes the University shares the responsibility of students' conduct.

"It's like having kids: You have to be there for better or worse," he said.

Director of Resident Life Sandra Schoonover said the administration is making safety preparations, but no more than in years past. Safety brochures and posters will be distributed around University housing describing how to stay

safe this Halloween. "Don't prop your doors open" and "report strangers" are just a few words of advice included in the posters. According to Schoonover, both student and professional staff will be on call all night, and resident assistants will talk to students about how to be safe.

Director of Student Judicial Affairs Chris Loschiavo said large advertisements listing instructions for safe parties will run in the Emerald

"Riots are non-threatening until cops show up."

Nicholas Brown
journalism major

again before Halloween. He said there is more effort this year toward getting out safety information. Loschiavo also said the University and EPD are finding low-budget, alcohol-free events to post around the University in hopes that students will find alternative ways to have fun on Halloween.

"We are working together to avoid problems," said Loschiavo, adding EPD is talking with Greek Life and other student leaders to ensure that the message of safety is communicated to everyone.

Rowdy parties and alcohol have been cited as an influence in last month's riots, and police hope to prevent future riots by passing on security cautions early.

Journalism major Nicholas Brown believes the police are the problem.

"Riots are non-threatening until cops show up," he said, deeming the increased patrols ineffective.

However, freshman Nebye Kahssai believes the police and DPS are less inclined to apprehend people not causing trouble. Kahssai said he is aware of the communication between DPS and EPD when illegal activity is present in the dorms, and this contact will remain regular on Halloween, according to Loschiavo.

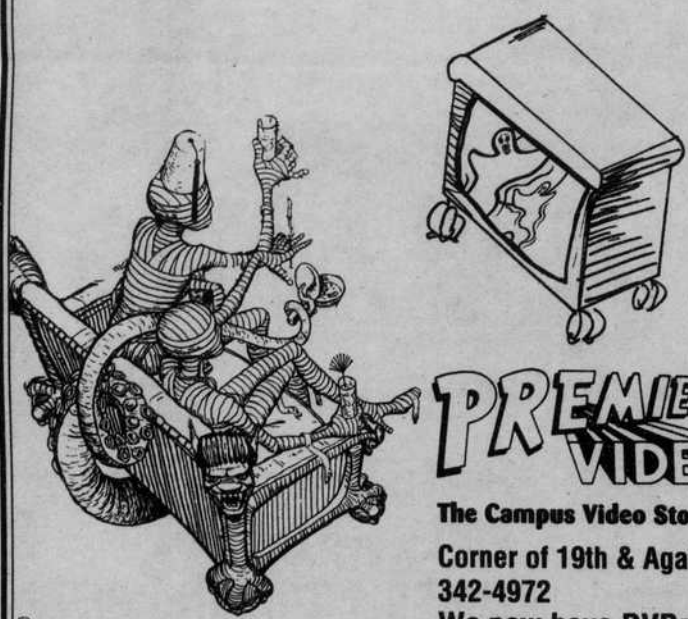
"The police have been present at all the (safety) meetings," Loschiavo said.

Officers signed up for the Halloween weekend patrols will go to houses where kegs are registered and help residents make sure all laws are followed.

Brown said he thinks the police will be stricter on Halloween in writing citations. He said handing out MIPs when kids are having a good time only adds to the "fire," and he believes if there are riots again, the police should deal with the situation more peacefully.

Jenny Sherman is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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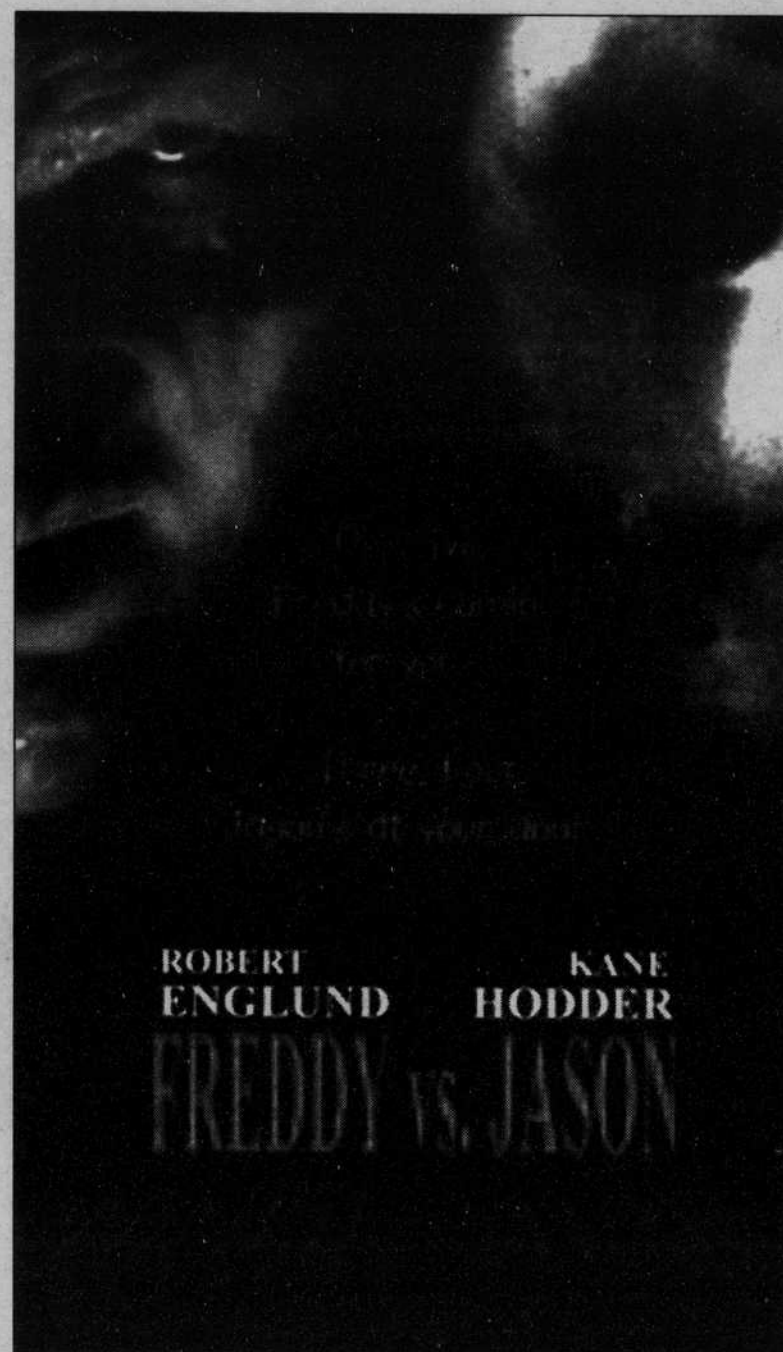
Springfield Stores

501 Main St.	747-5811
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HALLOWEEN



dePaul's
St. Vincent dePaul Society of Lane County, Inc.



New horror flicks pit creepy villain against creepier villain.

Courtesy photo

Movies

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Not everyone is against the new horror films.

Junior Diana Blank is one of those horror fans, who hates it while it rolls but loves it when it's over. She recently saw "The Ring," a horror flick currently playing in cinemas.

"It was an intense mixture of being startling and sick," Blank said. "I hated it, so it was great."

However, the movie has received less than enthusiastic reviews from film critics.

Perhaps even more scary than

the recent theater and video flops are the hordes of sequels trailing behind original classics with the runny consistency of fresh, fake blood. With a series of 10 "Friday the 13th," seven "Halloween," six "Nightmare on Elm Street," six "Hellraiser" and four "Child's Play" films, it's no surprise horror is merging sequels to conceive "Freddy vs. Jason," which is currently shooting in Vancouver, Canada, and aiming for a release date of June 13, 2003.

Caron Alarab is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Debate

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celebrate because the meaning behind it is a celebration of all that's evil," said Rojas, a member of Campus Crusade for Christ. "The media tries to make it cute and cuddly, but it is a horrible thing." Rojas said many Christians on campus celebrate the holiday, but he is sure if people were informed of the "satanic nature" of the holiday this would quickly change.

Other students view the holiday quite differently.

"That's stupid. Halloween is about having fun and candy," said freshman Jeanne Iverson, who said she has strong Christian beliefs but can't take criticism of Halloween seriously.

Many Christians have a more temperate view. "Some people celebrate it as a satanic event, most people don't," said Mike Alberts, the director of the Campus Crusade for Christ. "If the C.C. has an issue, it is with the world view of Satanism and paganism, not bashing

the holiday."

As an alternative, many churches offer "harvest parties" where children dress up as heroes or bible characters and celebrate the sea-

"Personally, I don't like to celebrate (Halloween) because the meaning behind it is a celebration of all that's evil."

Ryan Rojas
member of Campus
Crusade for Christ

son. The College Christian Fellowship also throws a party on Oct. 31.

"We dress up, we have fun," said Deanna Saemenes, a student representative of the Fellowship, and adds an undeniably pleasant appeal: "There is lots of free candy."

Andrew Shipley is a freelance writer for the Emerald.