

# Copwatch group launches new Web site

Speakers at a Tuesday press conference spoke about community involvement in monitoring police activity

Caron Alarab

Safety/Crime/Transportation Reporter

About 20 local citizens, Eugene Copwatch volunteers and members of the media gathered on the steps of the Eugene Police Department at City Hall during a Copwatch press conference Tuesday morning.

Dedicated to monitoring law enforcement activity as a grassroots movement since 1996, the organization scheduled the event, which lasted less than an hour, in response to a recent rash of police brutality

charges and suits filed in Oregon. Speakers briefly spoke in support of the numerous aspects and the importance of Copwatch to encourage better awareness of questionable police activity and to promote the organization's new Web site.

"This Web site is the tool that people can begin to use for reporting," volunteer and introductory speaker Tim Lewis said.

Copwatch was represented by a handful of volunteers who calmly voiced their opinions and statements to news cameras and microphones. Supporting individuals stood behind them while shading their eyes from the rising sun with flyers listing the Web site address — [www.eugene-copwatch.org](http://www.eugene-copwatch.org) —

and the reporting phone number — 343-8548.

Former Human Rights Commissioner Melissa Mona mentioned the inadequacies of current advocacy programs available to the public.

Speaker Charles Overbeck specified many of the newer features now available on the site, including a "how-to" page on different ways to witness and document incidents.

Speaker Randy Glicker addressed issues of videotaping events in teams and expressed a need to expand the local process of reporting.

Whiteaker Community Council member Majeska Seese-Green handed out information about the area's most recent community meeting, which focused on how to prevent in-

cidents like the Oct. 17 police raid, during which 59 officers from at least six agencies carried out a drug search and found nothing.

"(Our decision) represents condemnation of unwarranted use of police tactics and weapons that together endanger the very lives of everyone in the residential neighborhood," she said. "We want this never to happen again."

During the following question-and-answer period, speakers dispersed to talk with reporters and camera crews individually. In one comment made to a reporter, Lewis said "the media should be more aware of misinformation and disinformation" in regards to police investigations and public records.

EPD spokeswoman Pam Olshanski, accompanied by other EPD officials, observed the event from a few yards away. She said Copwatch demonstrations — much like peace rallies — have typically remained peaceful, with the turnout of the last local demonstration being a good example.

"Eugene is very well known for its activism," Olshanski said.

The conference quieted down at about 11 a.m. as local supporters headed home, camera crews packed up to leave and Lewis thanked everyone for coming.

"We believe everyone should be a Copwatcher," Lewis added.

Contact the reporter at [caronalarab@dailyemerald.com](mailto:caronalarab@dailyemerald.com).

## News briefs

### Career Fair gives environmental options

The third annual Humanity and Environmental Career Fair will take place today in the EMU Ballroom.

The fair, which runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will have 40 different organizations in attendance. The groups, ranging from AmeriCorps to City of Eugene Youth

Recreational to FOOD for Lane County, will be looking for students to fill full-time, part-time and summer jobs as well as internships and volunteer opportunities.

Mei Yong, the marketing and communication specialist at the Career Center, is the coordinator of today's fair.

"It's an excellent fair for students who want to go into this field," Yong said. She also said the fair would be a good chance for students who are interested in humanity and environ-

mental issues, but didn't have much experience, because of the many volunteer opportunities that will be available.

"There are a large number of students ... who are socially and environmentally conscious, and our regular career fair does not offer the jobs and positions they would like," Yong said.

Even with the economy in a slump, there are still many opportunities available to students, especially with all the various organizations

that will be present, she added.

— Ali Shaughnessy

### PFC receives budget increase

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee recalled its own budget at a meeting Monday night, and finalized numbers Tuesday. The committee presents its budget of more than \$4.83 million to Student Senate tonight.

PFC members supported increasing stipends for the 2003-04 PFC po-

sitions because committee members work October through March, but stop receiving stipends after February.

"This year we seem to have a little bit more room in our budget than in past years or future years may have," PFC Chairwoman Kate Shull said. "It seemed appropriate to continue that entire committee term through March."

The committee decided to allocate \$10,691 to PFC for 2003-04, a 32.51 percent increase.

— Jennifer Bear

## Brutality

continued from page 1

"I admitted to having possession of alcohol," Williams said. "He asked me for an ID (and I) gave it to him. And while he was writing me up, I was asking him, you know, if he could cut me some slack: 'I'm going to be 21 in a week and a half, and I can't afford a \$250 fine.'"

"At that point, he said, 'No, it's too late.' Then I told him I hoped he thought he was serving and protecting the community ... which I think got under his skin."

According to Williams and Olshanski, Williams was then allowed to leave. Williams said he walked on the sidewalk for a few blocks when a police car pulled beside him.

Olshanski said Williams continued to talk back to officers after receiving the MIP citation and was walking in the middle of the street. At least one car had to swerve to miss Williams, Olshanski said, and the student allegedly flipped off and cursed at the driver of the vehicle. After witnessing those events, Olshanski added, officers felt compelled to again speak with Williams. Olshanski said that as officers approached Williams, the University student proceeded to run.

When told of the contents of the police report, Williams said, "Oh my god, oh my god," reiterating an earlier statement questioning the authenticity of what the police would say happened.

"The power they have scares me as far as the police reports and what they can write and claim as fact," said Williams, a business major in his third year at the University. "That's the only thing that would allow them to get away with something like this."

Both Williams and Olshanski said officers

told the student he was under arrest. Williams — who said he was convicted in 2001 of disorderly conduct as part of a plea bargain — said the force used when arresting him was "absolutely not" necessary.

"(The officer) probably knew that if he used excessive force from the very beginning to get me down that I would probably resist because I'm sure he saw that I had these previous charges," Williams said.

Olshanski maintained the need for force. "I can't speak to this specifically, but when an officer is being assaulted, all actions necessary will be taken," she said.

The three officers who stopped and restrained Williams also put out a "code three cover" call, asking for any and all nearby support because they feared for their safety, Olshanski added.

Some time between 1:30 a.m. and 2 a.m., Lane Community College student John Duley said he was woken by noise coming from outside his house.

"At the beginning, (Williams) was like, 'I'm not resisting anything,'" said Duley, who lives at East 13th Avenue and Mill Street. "Then I heard screaming."

Duley said he saw a female officer repeatedly strike Williams with a nightstick while two officers struggled with Williams. The incident lasted about 20 minutes, and about 10 officers came to the scene, Duley said.

Duley said Williams was struggling and added that he thought the struggling was a result of the officers' attempts to restrain Williams.

"In my opinion, from my view, it didn't look like the police needed to go to these measures to restrain this guy," Duley said.

Williams fought when he was told he was under arrest, Olshanski said, and he kicked

one officer in the arm numerous times while struggling. "Focused blows" were issued by the three responding officers to restrain Williams, Olshanski added.

"All he had to do was stop resisting, and he clearly understood the direction being given to him," Olshanski said.

Williams' sister, Erin, said she received multiple phone calls from her brother after he was taken into custody. She didn't see him until Sunday afternoon, however, when she took multiple photos of her brother's injuries.

"His face was swollen, he had a gouge on his right side ... his whole jaw looked swollen," said Erin Williams, a University senior.

Joshua Williams, who said he visited the University Health Center about his injuries, added that he can't sit up for more than five minutes without being in pain.

"I'm lucky that I didn't come out with a broken bone, a broken jaw, because I got kicked in the face and suffered a concussion," he said.

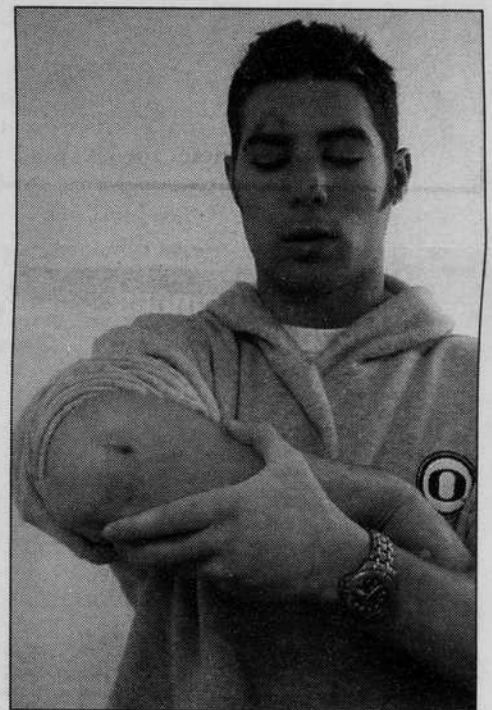
Olshanski also said Joshua Williams is fortunate his injuries are limited, given that he put himself at risk by being so combative with officers.

Erin Williams said that despite her brother's previous and similar trouble with the law, he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. She added that she believes her brother's account of the incident.

"He's not the type of guy that would go out there and make something like this up," she said.

Olshanski said Joshua Williams was cited for MIP, interfering with police, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and assault of a public safety officer.

He will be arraigned in Lane County Cir-



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Joshua Williams says he was beaten by the police after the EPD issued him an MIP.

cuit Court today for the latter of the three charges and will be in Eugene Municipal Court on March 10 for the MIP citation. He could be charged for the interfering with police citation at a later time.

Joshua Williams said he will plead not guilty to all charges.

Contact the news editor at [bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com](mailto:bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com).

**STOREWIDE SALE!**

**20-70% OFF**

Ski Equipment  
Downhill • Cross Country  
Snowboards • Clothing

Starts Noon Today!

**Berg's Ski Shop**

13th & Lawrence • 683-1300 • [www.bergsskishop.com](http://www.bergsskishop.com)

buy sell trade

John, Buffalo Exchange buyer

If our buyers were any less demanding, you wouldn't love the clothes

**Buffalo EXCHANGE**  
New & Recycled Fashion

131 E. Fifth Avenue (between Oak and Pearl) [BUFFALOEXCHANGE.COM](http://BUFFALOEXCHANGE.COM)

**METROPOLIS**

**NEW COURSE FOR SUMMER**  
**GER 355 GERMAN CINEMA**

An in-depth analysis of various facets of German Cinema, drawing on classic film from Fritz Lang and Wim Wenders. Conducted in English

2nd Summer Session  
MW 1:00 - 3:30 PM, U 1:00 - 2:50 PM  
Instr.: Dieter Manderscheid

For more information, call the Germanic Languages & Literature Department

**346-4051**