

Oregon Daily Emerald



Michael Franti discusses his music Page 7

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SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

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The complaint/allegation filed against officer Michael Bonertz in the ... case has been thoroughly investigated. This complaint/allegation has been classified as:

X Misconduct Found—a preponderance of evidence suggests that specific directives were violated that subject the employee to progressive discipline up to and including possibility of termination.

SOURCE: Department of Public Safety

DPS: Officer committed misconduct

The University and DPS may face legal recourse following the incident

By Jared Paben
News Reporter

The Department of Public Safety has concluded that the officer who struck a fleeing bicyclist with his vehicle on July 21 committed departmental misconduct, according to internal documents obtained by the Emerald.

The report indicates that 25-year-old Michael John Bonertz, who resigned from the department on July 31, willfully chose to break numer-

ous rules and regulations, and subjected the University and DPS to possible legal recourse.

"Officer Bonertz(s) probable cause for beginning the pursuit and actions reflects lack of awareness regarding not only policy but also the potential liability he subjected the department and University to in his actions," the report states.

Bonertz could not be reached for comment; a call to his listed home phone number instead reached American Family Insurance.

The seven-page investigation is based mostly on a July 30 interview with Bonertz, conducted by Administrative Lt. Joan Saylor, and it details the early morning hours of July 21.

Bonertz said he was patrolling campus at 3:30 a.m. when he saw two men, Donald Tean Gariepy and Troy Emmanuel Torris, performing stunts on their bikes. For the next 20 to 30 minutes, DPS officers exchanged radio messages regarding the location and direction of the two men, and one officer noted that the subjects were playing "cat and mouse" with the officers.

Bonertz said he attempted to stop the men because he saw them "craning their necks" to look in windows while riding near Lawrence Hall. When Bonertz tried to stop the individuals, they gave him an "Oh crap" look, like they had been caught doing something." In retrospect, Bonertz

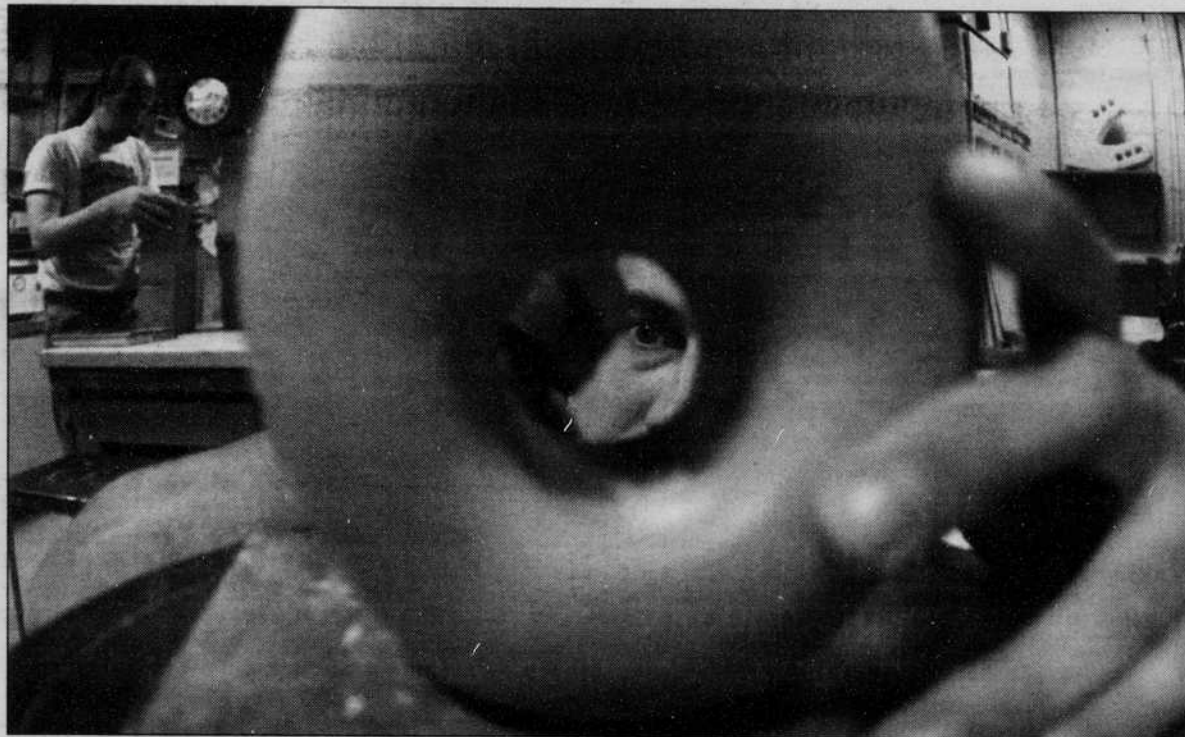
speculated that was partly because they had been performing tricks on their bikes — a campus offense.

Bonertz said he drove on the sidewalk — possibly reaching speeds of up to 15 mph as he followed Gariepy at a distance of less than five feet — in order to "keep up with him."

Bonertz said he then tried to "cut off" Gariepy but instead struck the man, throwing Gariepy off of his bicycle and into a nearby flower bed. Gariepy, 26, suffered abrasions on his cheek and a bloody nose.

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ARTISTIC VIEWPOINT



Adam Amato Photo Editor

Springfield resident and Craft Center veteran Karl Hirth works in the ceramics department of the Craft Center on Wednesday.

A CRAFTING ENDEAVOR

The Craft Center has been offering classes ranging from ceramics to bicycle maintenance for 30 years

By Natasha Chilingirian
Pulse Reporter

Many students may be busy handling school supplies this fall, but they can always take a break to exchange their mechanical pencils and three-ring binders for more creative endeavors in the Craft Center.

Located in the lower level of the EMU's East Wing, the Craft Center offers year-round workshops for jewelry-making, metalsmithing, woodworking, ceramics, sculpture, fiber arts, photography, paper arts, painting, drawing and bicycle maintenance. The workshops are non-for-credit and are open to anyone.

Craft Center assistant coordinator Laura Gerards has been working at what she calls "the most fun place on campus" for 11 years. She has taught

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Acceptance rate decreases at UO

The University rejected 1,400 applicants this year; a 20 percent increase from last year

By Chuck Slothower
News Reporter

High school students often receive University recruitment pamphlets picturing students laughing, studying and even strumming guitars on the lawn; always under sunny skies.

But that's not the reality for Sachel Digel. The 20-year-old Portland resident has been rejected twice for admission to the University.

Digel's story isn't unique — the Office of Admissions is rejecting more students this year. For fall 2003, more than 1,400 applicants were rejected for undergraduate admission, an increase of more than 20 percent from last year.

Digel, meanwhile, has decided to attend Mount Hood Community College in Portland for the time being.

"It's not really a college experience," Digel said. "Mount Hood doesn't have a campus life."

Admissions decisions are affected by limited capacity, limited funding and the University's constant drive to improve its academic reputation.

"Our charge as an institution right now is to stabilize enrollment at between 20 and 21,000," said Martha Pitts, director of admissions. "We reached 20,000 three years before we thought we would."

Funding is also "absolutely" an issue in admissions decisions, according to Pitts.

While the University is a state institution that must provide for Oregon residents, it also needs the comparative financial windfall that out-of-state students bring in.

"Last year we had more than 1,000 students for whom we received no state funding at all," Pitts said. "And that becomes a challenge for us."

While the number of rejected students rose dramatically from fall 2002 to fall 2003, the percentage of rejected applicants who were Oregon residents held steady at 46 percent.

"The University is a state institution and has a strong commitment to teaching students from Oregon," said Pitts. "But that is difficult when per-student funding has remained flat over the last six years."

As the University strives to improve its academic reputation, fewer and fewer students with low grades are getting in. The group of

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Maddy and Eddy
size up the
new year