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Oregon Daily Emerald

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COMMONS

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EPD officers also received a report of several shots fired at the University Commons on March 23 at 12:22 a.m.

Delf said that officers arrived at the scene one minute later and found more than a dozen spent 40-caliber bullet casings in apartment 27 of building C.

Delf added that officers believed the tenants had been partying when the shots were fired, but had departed prior to the officers' arrival.

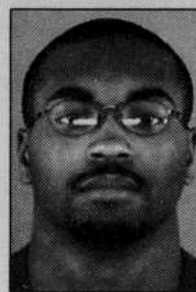
EPD has no suspects and does not know if anyone was injured during the incident, Delf said.

In addition to these two incidents, several other events took place at the University Commons during the break.

EPD made at least three arrests at the complex and received one report of a dispute. EPD also received reports of

three burglaries and one suicidal person.

Although Gilfoy refused to comment, he told The Register-Guard on



Spencer
Stabbing suspect

March 26 that he is beefing up security at the complex by stationing officers seven nights a week. He also said that he has taken steps to evict the tenant living in the apartment where the shots were fired because violent incidents had occurred at that apartment in the past.

According to the police call log, a young man was stabbed in that same apartment on Dec. 17, 2003. Delf said Phillip Alan Stiggins, 20, was arrested

for first degree assault for the stabbing.

A representative of the Lane County Circuit Court said Stiggins was convicted on one count of third degree assault on Feb. 6 and received a sentence of 18 months in jail, two years of probation and fines.

Delf said that a certain "element" seems to be moving into the complex and is involved in a more serious level of crime.

"It used to be that we looked at (the University Commons) as a place where students live," she said. "It's not just students anymore."

She added that "not all of the problems may be coming from students," but said that they do cause their share of problems.

Delf said anyone with information regarding the stabbing or shots fired should call EPD at 682-5111.

Contact the crime/health/safety reporter at lisacatto@dailymerald.com.

BUSINESS

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2003. Miller said opening the store wasn't a difficult process because of her previous business experience.

"Having the experience in managing The Paper Garden and working for the greatest boss in the world really encouraged me to pursue my own interests," Miller said. "She always encouraged us to be creative, and she was just the most supportive and positive person."

Miller helped owner Judy Murphy manage the store for several years.

"She was pretty much absent from the store for a good year and a half," Miller said. "I had full reign, and she trusted me entirely with her business."

Mathews also found a mentor in another female business owner. During the past few years, she worked with Meera Willis at a shoe store called Miss Meers.

"I started working on my business plan in March of last year," Mathews

said. "I had been working at Miss Meers and I just saw a niche in the market that needed to be filled and (Willis) encouraged me. She's a great mentor."

Originally, Mathews was going to open her business alone, but when she was introduced to Bridges, the two realized they were both attempting to open the same type of store. Mathews was an advertising major at the University, and Bridges studied multimedia graphic design at The Portland Art Institute.

"I can't say being a business major is an advantage or disadvantage," Mathews said. "No matter what your major is, the next step is going to be new, and you're going to be learning from it."

Dagua Web owns Deluxe, a men and women's vintage fashion store that opened in April 2003 and has gained a "strong following" of customers, Web said.

Web said she found a gap between age and business technique.

"People kept telling me to try these business plans, which I felt were really

old-fashioned and complex," Web said. "I didn't need some complex business plan — I had a straight-forward idea about what I wanted to do. People would tell me that I couldn't do what I was doing without doing market research first, but I really didn't need that, I knew Eugene."

Mathews said she and Bridges have received a large amount of support.

"In this day and age it's not such a shock to see women owning businesses anymore; I think we've gotten a little bit braver," Bridges said. "Having a dream and realizing it can happen is pretty amazing."

Bridges and Mathews said they are optimistic and ambitious about the future of their business, which is located at 295 E. Fifth Ave.

"We want to open another store in six months to a year," Bridges said. "Possibly continuing that trend and opening up a small chain of these stores."

Contact the business/science/technology reporter at stevenneuman@dailymerald.com.

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