

Oregon Daily Emerald



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SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

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MISTAKEN IDENTITIES

THE EUGENE POLICE COMMISSION WANTS TO FIND OUT IF DPS AND EPD UNIFORMS ARE CAUSING CONFUSION

By Lisa Catto
News Reporter

A cop? No, maybe a Department of Public Safety officer. Or possibly event security?

Some University students have mistakenly identified DPS officers for Eugene Police Department officers, or vice versa, due to the similar uniforms worn by officers at both departments.

Several recent incidents of confusion have prompted the Eugene Police Commission to form the Police Uniform Standards Task Group, which will look at the possible confusion caused by sim-

ilarities between EPD uniforms and security or public safety agency uniforms.

The group could then recommend an ordinance to require public and private security services to purchase distinguishable uniforms.

Police Commissioner John Brown has noticed several instances of confusion during his ride-alongs with EPD officers.

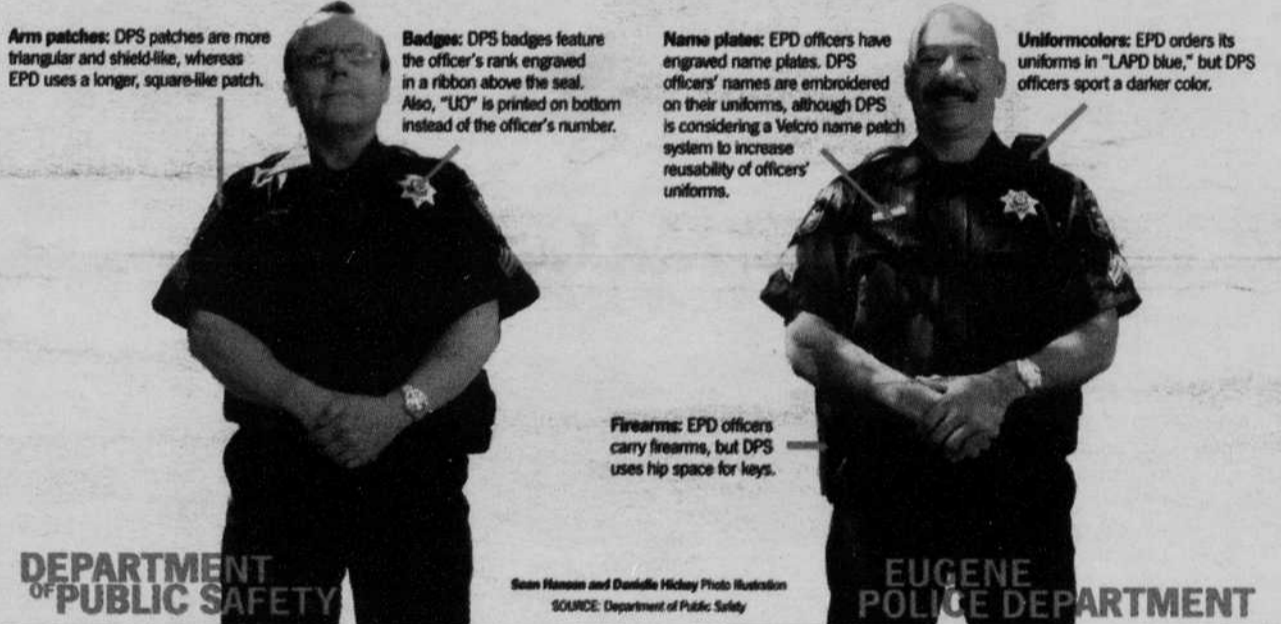
One instance was a fight that occurred at a local bar. Several EPD and DPS officers arrived to deal with the altercation. Brown said many of the bar-goers couldn't tell EPD and DPS officers apart, and it appeared the response was "overkill."

"If you look at the uniforms, you can hardly tell them apart," Brown said.

But DPS is concerned about the potential cost of switching uniforms, especially since Police Commission Coordinator Jeannine Parisi said DPS will be more affected by a potential ordinance.

DPS Interim Director Tom Hicks said he is unaware of any specific instances where DPS and EPD officers were confused, adding that a potential recommendation to require new, distinguishable uniforms could cost a lot. He estimates it will cost \$8,000 to \$10,000

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Sean Hansen and Danielle Hickey Photo Illustration
SOURCE: Department of Public Safety

EUGENE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Council rejects motion to ban big-box retailers

Potential Wal-Mart expansion sparks debate about the effects of big business development

By Parker Howell
News Reporter

The Eugene City Council on Monday narrowly rejected a motion to place a moratorium on the construction of large-volume retailers. The contentious motion would have temporarily restricted the city from accepting or processing applications for new stores larger than 50,000 square feet.

The motion failed 5-4, with Mayor Jim Torrey providing a tie-breaking vote. The council then unanimously passed a motion asking the mayor's Economic Development Committee to analyze how big-box stores affect the city.

Ward 2 City Councilor Betty Taylor, who proposed the moratorium, said big-box stores have been a long-standing issue for many citizens. She added that recent plans to expand the Wal-Mart on West 11th Avenue to a "Supercenter," which would sell groceries, has brought the issue back to the forefront.

"I've been concerned about it for years," Taylor said. "Right now, it's the Wal-Mart expansion that's causing a lot of interest."

Taylor said her proposal would protect local businesses and workers.

Ward 3 City Councilor David Kelly also supported a moratorium. However, he said the moratorium was not designed to stop the Wal-Mart expansion, but temporary restrictions were necessary to prevent the city from allowing construction that would affect Eugene for decades. Kelly added that these stores may cause the local economy to suffer a net economic loss. He said the stores offer low wages, causing other taxpayers to pay for subsidies such as food stamps and housing. He also emphasized that other cities have restrictions.

"The idea of restrictions isn't a wacky Eugene idea," he said.

Ward 5 City Councilor Gary Papé said restrictions might not

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Beta Theta Pi president inspires his house to succeed

Daniel Occhipinti has helped turn his organization around by embracing substance-free policies and strict study sessions

By Moriah Balingit
News Reporter

When Daniel Occhipinti was elected president of Beta Theta Pi in September 2003, his fraternity was on the verge of tanking. Beta Theta Pi had been cited for alcohol violations and had failed to meet the risk management standards required for its University endorsement.

"When I took the reins of this place, all of the mistakes of those who came before me fell upon my shoulders," Occhipinti said. He said that, unlike past leaders, he had to take over without help from a predecessor to ease the transition because the former president had been removed from the fraternity.

Beta Theta Pi's adviser John Steiner said

it was Occhipinti who swayed the committee responsible for the fate of the fraternity.

"He was very articulate in convincing the committee," Steiner said. "He articulated change that could occur and that he would be responsible for the change."

Besides just convincing the committee, Occhipinti managed to get the rest of the remaining fraternity members on board to adopt the changes required to keep the fraternity open, which included complying with the University's substance-free policy.

"(Occhipinti) inspired us to believe in the importance of the policies," said Beta Theta Pi member and spokesperson Daniel Scheinman.

Ironically, when the substance-free policy was originally introduced in the fall of 2002, Occhipinti publicly criticized it.

"Since that time I've witnessed the benefits of the policies and have a completely different perspective on the entire thing," he said. "The quality of life is dramatically

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Tim Kupsick Photographer

Daniel Occhipinti helped get Beta Theta Pi on its feet, keeping the fraternity open and improving its service and academics.

WEATHER

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HIGH
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