

WATER

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us, so it's going to be fun."

Maltz said the water flow decreased at about 3:05 p.m., when EWEB arrived, but that even at a slower pace, the water was still flowing strong.

"I'm a little worried about the cars; it looks like there's going to be damage to them," Maltz said.

Karen Pavelec — an employee of the Maude Kerns Art Center, located at East 15th Avenue and Villard

Street — stepped outside to go to her car and discovered the torrent of water rushing down the street in front of the building.

"We have river-front property now; so we have Maude Kerns Art Center on the river," Pavelec said.

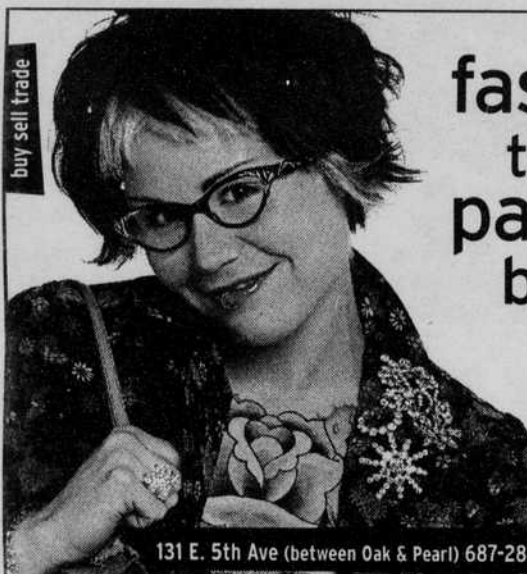
As of 5 p.m. EWEB crews were still working to repair the broken pipe, and as of press time no estimates of the projected damage from the flooding were available.


Steven R. Neuman is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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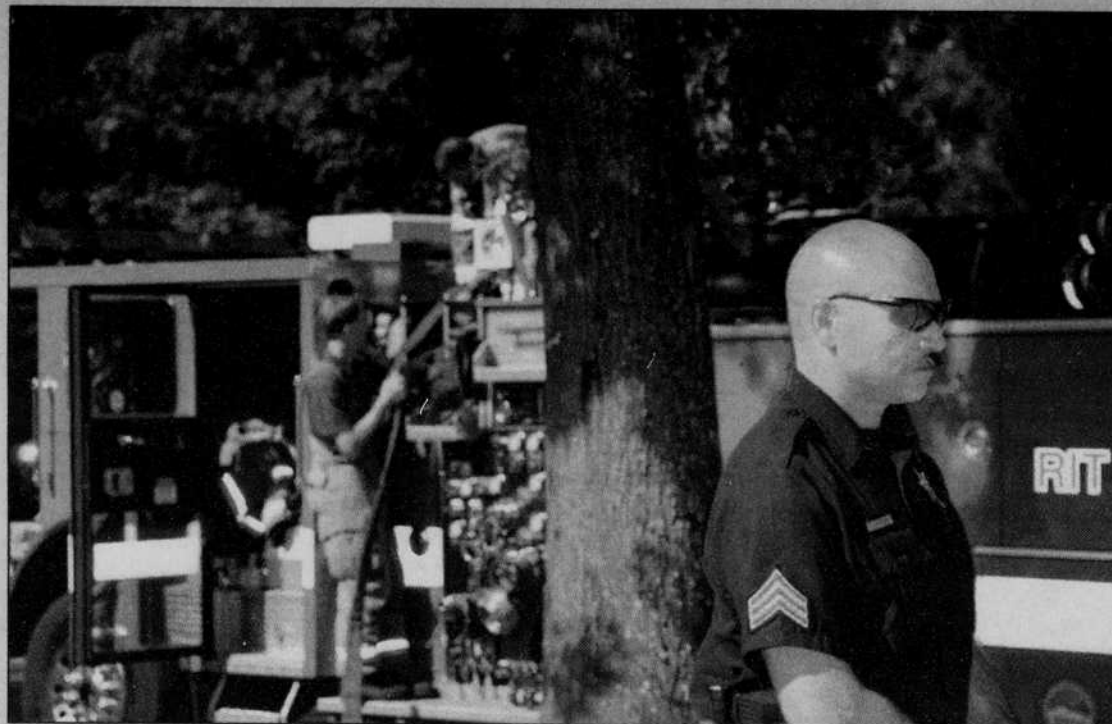
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LEAK IN THE LINE



Erik R. Bishoff Online & Photo Editor

Eugene Police Department liaison Sergeant Mark Montes watches over the intersection of East 13th Avenue and University Street after a gas main ruptured, prompting the response of University Fire Department employees Mike Thompson (top) and Greg Wiley.

NEWS BRIEF

Astronomical Society to gather for meteor shower

Coming soon to a Northwest sky near you: the annual Perseid meteor shower, which will produce 40 to 60 meteors an hour for stargazers.

The Eugene Astronomical Society plans a nighttime gathering Friday to watch the spectacle.

Meteor showers, or shooting stars, are bits of meteor debris, in this case the Swift-Tuttle comet, which orbits the sun on a 130-year cycle.

Earth passes through the orbit of comet debris once a year. At that time meteoroids — the technical term for space dust — burn as they

hit our planet's atmosphere.

The shower is named because the meteors seem to come from that particular constellation in the northeast corner of the sky. It runs from late July through late August.

This year, NASA scientists say a relatively new filament of dust, which blew off the comet more than 140 years ago, will drift across the Earth's orbit sometime Wednesday.

The resulting surge of meteoroids will be most visible over Europe and Asia, as many as 200 per hour.

Sky-watchers in the Northwest won't be so lucky, but there still should be plenty to see.

A new moon means the night sky will be quite dark this week, making

it easier to see shooting stars.

And Jupiter's 12-year orbit has also brought it into contact with the meteoroids.

"It throws the dust around a little," he said, which can mean more bits of rock and ice hitting our atmosphere, said Tracy Stephensen, the Eugene society's board president.

The highest meteor concentration can be seen late Wednesday night and early Thursday morning, he said.

Stephensen says stargazers should find a dark place on the outskirts of town.

He said he plans to spend at least one night this week in a boat on Fern Ridge Lake, where city lights won't interfere with the view.

— Associated Press

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