

# Safety concerns and alley art spark discussion

The West University Neighbors considered parking issues and potential beautification of the area alleys

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SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A University student attending the West University Neighbors meeting Thursday night called for the Eugene Police Department to take more action and for citizens to show more concern about incidents of men sexually exposing themselves in the campus area.

Cecilia Story, 32, said she spends the majority of her time in the ceramics studio on the north side of Franklin and is often there late into the night. She said she and other students have had ongoing problems with men lurking in the bushes and exposing themselves while students are working in the studio or walking to or from the studio.

Story expressed concern over police priorities and over society's priorities; she said this has been a recurring problem at the University for several years but nothing has been done about it.

"What are you thinking people?" Story said. "This just doesn't jive."

Police documented numerous incidents of indecent exposure on campus in 2002 and 2003, and police spokeswoman Kerry Delf told the Emerald that several incidents have been reported recently in the campus area but that the description witnesses gave differed in many cases.

"There are fairly regular public indecency incidents in the University area with a wide range of descriptions of the subject," Delf said. "People talk about the campus masturbator, but it's not one guy."

Story left the meeting after other attendees expressed concern with what she said was her loud and aggressive demeanor and questioned why she was at the meeting if she did not live in the neighborhood.

Story later told the Emerald her goal

is to increase the presence of police bike patrol around the ceramics studio at night and to raise awareness about the ongoing problem of men sexually exposing themselves on campus.

"I just feel like there needs to be some sort of education going on," Story said.

Also at the meeting, neighborhood residents discussed the upcoming alley paving project with City Planner Steve Gallup.

Gallup said the city's plans to pave the alleys this summer will leave each alley closed for a period of about 10 days; residents who depend on them for parking will have to contact the city for a 24-hour street parking permit.

Flyers informing residents of specifics of the closures will be posted on doors when the date of the project is closer, Gallup said.

Work has already started on the first alley, and Gallup said more work should begin in the next few weeks because the project is supposed to be completed by Sept. 1.

"They're going to be moving closer and closer to the University as they go," Gallup said.

West University Neighbors 1st Vice Chair David Wallace said it is crucial for city officials to closely examine the contractor's plans and project completion history to ensure the job is completed with the best possible quality. Brown Contracting and 2G Construction are handling the alley paving project.

"The value of our community is dependent on making sure the contractors that are doing this are doing a good job of protecting water run-off," Wallace said.

Gallup and City Councilor David Kelly both said the city holds its contractors to very high standards and has



NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Cecilia Story attended Thursday night's West University Neighbors meeting to discuss her concern about campus safety.

critical guidelines to follow when making a selection for a project.

Neighborhood association chair Drix Rixmann reminded residents about his hope to "add some of our personality to the future of this neighborhood" by including original artwork on each newly paved alley.

Gallup said the most financially feasible idea may be to create a stamp that can be imprinted in each alley. Stamps like that can cost under \$1,000 and don't take long to produce, Gallup said. He said addressing the alley art project is important because of how

quickly the alleys in the neighborhood will start being paved.

"It's a very good idea to do this type of work when the concrete is wet," Gallup said.

Community activist Zachary Vishanoff voiced concern over the art project and the idea of imprinting something into cement.

"This sounds like a branding exercise, and branding is highly controversial," Vishanoff said.

Vishanoff said spending money on art projects is not something the neighborhood association should be doing.

"We should be thinking about our priorities before we go spending money on cute little things," Vishanoff said.

Also at the meeting, Rixmann pitched the association's plans for a neighborhood party, which is scheduled to take place July 16 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the West University Neighborhood Park. Residents suggested holding an open mic session for interested musicians, poets or other artists.

"You could suggest: Bring food, music and manifestos," Vishanoff said.

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## Shasta: Some think gathering harbors unjustifiable danger

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and sorority.

However, not everyone who attends is a member of the greek community.

In light of this year's deaths, Greek Life Advisor Shelley Sutherland said the Greek Life Office will step up its efforts to provide boating safety education.

"One thing the office would like to do is have a boating safety workshop and make it available to all of the campus," Sutherland said. She emphasized that the workshop has never been restricted to greek students, but that next year it will be "a more broadly promoted event."

Sutherland added that the office will convene a focus group of this year's Shasta-goers to come up with "some ideas and information to try and make it safer."

In previous years, the Shasta County Sheriff's Boating Safety Unit came up to deliver boating safety presentations at the University and at OSU. But the last time it came up was 2003 and after that, Liljegrin said the University uninvited them.

"The University didn't want to encourage this type of party at Shasta Lake," he said. "They also believed that a formalized presentation almost condoned it."

However, Sutherland said it was not the University's decision to tell the Boating Safety Unit not to come to campus.

"The Sheriff's Office stopped calling to do it," she said. "We didn't ever decide to do it or not to do it."

Robertson said IFC and PHC's

presentation was comparable to what the Sheriff's Office would have done because the presentation was prepared with substantial assistance from the Sheriff.

Regardless, Liljegrin said many students forget safety once the party starts.

"After a little bit of alcohol that safety goes out the window," he said. "They're just not completely utilizing their heads for a few days."

Sutherland said she would recommend that greek chapters not to go to Shasta Lake on Memorial Day weekend.

"My advice would be not to go," she said. "But at the same time, if people choose to act responsibly, usually you can avoid tragedy."

But she added that it's not within her powers to actually prohibit students from going because people attend as individuals, not as members of a fraternity or sorority.

Lindsey Thompson of Alpha Chi Omega sorority said several members of the sorority have decided they probably won't go next year because "it's not worth it."

Sutherland said she hopes this year's deaths will warn students of the dangers of partying at Shasta Lake.

"This should be an eye-opener for students that two tragedies have occurred with this kind of event," she said. "Hopefully people will think twice about going."

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News Reporter Emily Smith  
contributed to this report.

KCC

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GEL207/01	<b>Geology of the Pacific NW</b> W 6/29, 7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27 Sa 7/9, 7/16, 7/23	3	W	8:00-5:00pm 7:00-8:50pm	Willett/Bartow	Bldg 3, Rm 306
HST277/01	<b>The Oregon Trail</b>	3	TuTh	5:30-7:35pm	Staff	Bldg 3, Rm 308
ART281/01	<b>Painting</b>	3	TuWTh	12:30-3:15pm	D Stump	Bldg 3, Rm 306
ECO202/01	<b>Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics</b>	3	TuWTh	2:00-3:25pm	D Foster	Bldg 2, Rm 207
ENG298.01	<b>Women's Studies</b>	3	Th	12:30-1:55pm	L Kessler	Bldg 2, Rm 207
ENG213/01	<b>Latin American Literature</b>	3	TuWTh	2:00-3:25pm	E Rupert	Bldg 1, Rm 111
JPN103/01	<b>First Year Japanese III</b>	4	MTuWTh	3:30-4:55pm	D Foster	Bldg 2, Rm 207

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