

**Tough Questions** Bike Patrol Train-

## Irrational and Rational Actors: Decoding Decisions, Support, and **Executive Leadership**

Irrational actors are individuals who act outside of a logical framework, where behaviors are expected, predictable, logical, and reasonable. Rational actors are individuals who follow the aforementioned framework.

In order to understand rational behavior, it is important to consider and accept certain basic underlying premises.

First, Public Safety has a responsibility to create and support a safe environment for campus community members.

Second, LCC wants a safe campus in order to support an environment that is conducive to learning, working, and the overall business operations of the college.

Third, LCC hires professional staff that has varying levels of expertise, experience, and knowledge. These staff members are entrusted with the responsibility and obligation to utilize best practices and their subject matter understanding to facilitate the business of the college as it relates to their position.

If we can accept these as an accurate representation of the "rules" for a rational environment, then we can begin to critically analyze and examine the actions in this environment.

## What role does historical vs. hysterical knowledge play in rational action?

As the Chief Public Safety officer, I was privileged to play a part in the major reformation and redesign of the Public Safety Department. I did this with the cooperation and support of the officers and administrative staff and with the support of my supervisor.

There are innumerable operational changes that have been initiated and successfully implemented during my tenure. There are several tests that would generally validate the wisdom and reasonableness of these changes, here are a few.

1) The overall reduction of risk. This includes legal exposure from hazard mitigation, operational practices, and malpractice (as it pertains to public officials in a

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## Chief's Note

Receive a threat by email, voicemail, telephone, or in person?

Call Public Safety for assistance.

**Our Investigators** can often assist you and will work with other agencies to resolve your case.

public department). There has been no litigation towards this department for operational incompetence, failures to perform, or any other reason.

In any other department with similar mandates and the periodic requirement to use force, one *expects* that there are occasional law suits. This is true even when the suits do not have merit. Thus far, no such suits have been forthcoming towards this department.

This is for a number of reasons including, the development and formalization of policy, annual training requirements, standards for in-processing and selection, and ongoing conversations about managing risk.

Indeed, the most common risk prevention/response practices (accidents on campus, and potential riskladen observations-that are corrected by DPS) are a core part of the elimination of *college-wide risks*.

2) Frequent and ongoing effective collaboration with Law Enforcement partners.

Public Safety has established important relationships with local LE agencies that has defined operational protocols and standards for joint work, especially in the case of jurisdiction/service concerns. These include agreements with LCSO (dispatch service, parking enforcement for county roads, emergency road closures, assisting officers on county roads, recognition of LCC for medical emergency assistance on public roads, offer of special deputy status, etc.); OSP (prisoner transport agreement, support for LE activity when LCSO not available), and the city of Eugene (citation authority for DT Campus parking).

These relationships are the hallmarks of best practices and enhance daily operations. The ongoing continuum of communication and negotiation, help all concerned achieve success.

3) The parallel development (often in advance of) policies and procedures that other Community Colleges also develop.

Frequently, LCC is consulted by other CCs in Oregon on best practices, policies, procedures and methods. Frequently we find that we are *ahead* of our colleagues in our operational procedures and policies.

Examples include the establishment of physical screening criteria for new officers (ahead of most institutions by about 2 years). Example: the establishment of a training academy for new officers (ahead of other institutions by about 3 years). Example: interoperability radio protocols with other agencies (aligned with most CC's, PCC slightly ahead with area network access). Example: a comprehensive educational program where officers provide training to campus member son a variety of topics (LCC leads in this area in both the scope of programs and the level of officer involvement and ownership).

So, we have established what some of the indicators of a healthy, forward-thinking department is, in a **rational** environment.

So, here are the key questions in understanding irrational actors in this environment.

If Public Safety is so "right" as validated by so many work products, value-added services, understanding of the law and of the educational environment, then how can Public Safety be so very wrong about the changing nature of the threat environment and what tools are needed to address these concerns?

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## PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER ATTENDS BIKE PATROL TRAINING

In July, I attended IPMBA (International Police Mountain Bike Association) Training at Corvallis Police Department in Corvallis, OR. This training serves to provide law enforcement and emergency medical services personnel with knowledge and skill sets for bike patrol operations. Lane Community College Department of Public Safety has had a bike patrol program since mid-year of 2009. In 2009, this patrol consisted of only two officers and two bikes. Today, Public Safety's Bike Team consists of eight officers and four bikes. Out of those eight officers, two hold the positions of Officer In Charge (OIC) and Bike Patrol Training Officer (BPTO).

Bike Patrol offers many advantages over other law enforcement patrol tactics. Some of those advantages include (but are not limited to): patrolling areas that a patrol vehicle cannot, contact with more community member's, expedited response times in condensed areas or crowds specifically on inner campus, offering a "green" alternative to patrol vehicles as well as increasing the health and fitness of officers.

As a member of Lane Community College Department of Public Safety's Bike Patrol Team, I have been afforded the opportunity to ride extensively on our main campus. This has provided me with the opportunity to broaden my bike riding skills and better oriented with our campus and our community members. I wanted to further my skills in order to be a better officer, but ultimately have the ability to help our community members through being a better and safer bike rider. Not that I or any of my fellow officers ride unsafely throughout our campus, but I want to have the ability to render aid to those in need during an emergency. When these times happen, I need to have the ability and confidence in my skills in order to respond in a timely and safe manner, which could involve riding up or down stairs, in crowds, traffic, or traversing various obstacles.



I reached out to IPMBA and requested any information on training opportunities in the local area. IMPBA replied with contact information for the Corvallis Police Department as well as an upcoming training start date. I was thrilled and a bit nervous considering what I had read regarding training standards and requirements. I felt like the new kid starting school. I could not sleep I was excited and again nervous with anticipation of what the next day would hold for me.

On, July 1st, I arrived at Corvallis Police Department ready

to embark on new experiences. The classroom was filled with ten officers from seven different agencies from around the state. Those agencies in attendance were from: Oregon State Police, Oregon State University Department of Public Safety, Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, Albany Police Department, University of Oregon Police Department, Corvallis Police Department, and Lane Community College Department of Public Safety.

We began class with introductions from our instructors followed by introductions from each of the officers. Our instructors gave us the outline for the days training curriculum as well as what was to be expected for the following days to come. Based on what was said, we were all about to embark on a grueling, yet gratifying training experience.

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#### BIKE PATROL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)



Once we were out of the classroom the training process began with familiarization of our bikes. We learned how to conduct proper safety checks to ensure that our equipment were in good working order. We also learned the basics of efficient and safe bike riding. After we mastered these skills we set off for our first ride. Our first ride took us all over the city of Corvallis, which became the norm at the start of each day over the course of the week. I learned very quickly how important it was to stay in good physical shape as well as keep my bike in good mechanical standing.

We rode an average of thirty miles per day. This was not just distance riding. Our rides included (through instruction and demonstration from the instructor's) riding in

traffic included city, highway and rural settings, and also low speed/high maneuvering courses.

Riding in traffic proved to be a daunting task at times. What was more challenging was the course riding. This consisted of riding controlled circles in a nine foot box, a slalom course as well as an "M" course where we had to ride a two foot lane in a coned "M" shape. I can't tell you how many times we all lost balance and or fell. After scrapes and bruises we all eventually mastered our skills tests when the time came.

Our daily rides became increasingly difficult and consisted of more skill sets to master. Getting back to an earlier paragraph, I explained some of the obstacles or areas that I would have to ride in. For instance each officer had to master the following practical skills sets without fail or inevitably we would be cut from the program. These items were, stair ascent and descent, low speed high maneuverability, power slides, rear leg dismount, step through dismount, maximum braking, quick turns, evasive maneuvers, efficiency riding, high speed riding, bicycle maintenance, just to name a few. All of this training had to be completed in order to graduate and become certified as an IPMBA Accredited Law Enforcement Cyclist. In addition to all of the training, it had to be done in forty hour period, which meant eight hours of bike riding per day.

What does this mean for our department and the college? With my training and certification I am now able to share my training with our other bike patrol officers so that they too can ride more safely and effectively in their role as Public Safety Officer. This will the overall safety and well-being for everyone who visits or attend our college.

-Officer Ryan Sager



## Crime on Campus \*Select Cases on Campus July 2014



July 1, officers responded to report of possible Suicidal Subject.

July 1, officer contacted Suspicious Person outside Titan Court

July 1, officer investigated Suspicious Vehicle in Lot M.

July 1, officer investigated report of stolen money from the Bookstore.

July 3, officer contacted Intoxicated Subject on the west side of Main Campus.

July 3, stolen property recovered by officer near Bldg 31

July 3, Suspicious person contacted by officer in Lot N

July 3, Medical Emergency in Bldg 3

July 4, report of Hit and Run at Downtown Campus

July 4, officer discovered person trespassing in Lot F July 5, officer discovered suspicious conditions near the track shed

July 5, officer heard male screaming west of campus

July 5, officer discovered person trespassing near Lot B

July 7, Disorderly Subject reported in Lot A

July 7, victim reported Harassment at Downtown Residence

July 8, off duty officer reported dispute near Bldg 13

July 8, Medical Emergency in Bldg 1

July 9, Theft of bike tire reported at Downtown Campus

## Trip to the Zoo

A police officer sees a man driving around with a pickup truck full of penguins.

He pulls the guy over and says: "You can't drive around with penguins in this town! Take them to the zoo immediately." The guy says OK, and drives away.

The next day, the officer sees the guy still driving around with the truck full of penguins, and they're all wearing sun glasses.

He pulls the guy over and demands: "I thought I told you to take these penguins to the zoo yesterday?"

The guy replies: "I did . . . today I'm taking them to the beach!"



## Have a crime tip? Please call us with your information at (541) 463-5558

July 9, officers checked the welfare of a student July 14, officers discovered suspicious person near Lot B

July 14, drug activity reported on Main Campus

July 15, disruptive student reported at DTA

July 17, officer assisted Lane County Sheriff's Deputies with investigation

July 18, officers assisted Lane County Sheriff's Deputies at scene of a crash near Main Campus

July 20, officer discovered Suspicious Conditions in Bldg 1

July 22, officer found person trespassing at the DTC July 22, Theft of iPad reported from Science. Item

recovered by investigating officer.

July 25, odor of natural gas reported in Center Bldg (no leak discovered)

July 27, Medical Emergency in Bldg 5

July 28, Suspicious Vehicle reported in ramp area

July 28, officer assisted Eugene Fire Dept at Downtown Campus

July 28, Theft of college property reported at Down-town Campus

July 30, report of Misuse of College Property in Bldg 1

July 30, officers reported to call of subject making threats with a knife. Person was arrested by Sheriff's Office for Felon in Possession of a Weapon July 31, report of Theft in Center Bldg, officers contacted suspect and recovered property



"We were both there in the dryer, and then... Poof! She was gone!"

## **Crime on Campus** \*Select Cases on **Campus August 2014**





Aug 4, Suspicious Subject reported in Bldg 19

Bldg 12

Aug 4, Officer assisted injured person at the Downtown Campus

Aug 5, Officer extinguished small fire in smoking shelter of Lot B

Aug 5, Officer investigated report of Disorderly Subject at Downtown Campus

Aug 6, Laptop reported stolen from Bldg 19

Aug 7, Disorderly Subject reported in Lot B

Aug 9, Officer assisted Eugene PD after a report of a Suicidal Subject at Titan Court

Aug 9, Graffiti discovered by officer at DTC

Aug 13, Stolen LCC property recovered in Coos Bay

Aug 14, Stolen laptop reported from Bldg 19

Aug 18, Harassment reported at Downtown Campus Aug 29, Officer discovered sign vandalized in Dale

Aug 18, Student Trespassed from Downtown Campus for inappropriate behavior

Aug 18, Graffiti discovered at Downtown Center Aug 18, Officer discovered subject Trespassing at Downtown Campus

Aug 4, Officer investigated Suspicious Vehicle near Aug 21, Officer contacted group of Suspicious Subjects on Main Campus while campus closed

Aug 25, Officers responded to intrusion alarm at Cottage Grove campus.

Aug 25, Officer discovered Graffiti at Downtown Center

Aug 26, Officer discovered Graffiti in LTD Bus Loop on Main Campus

Aug 26, Caller reported cash stolen from wallet on Main Campus

Aug 27, Officer discovered Graffiti on Bldg 30

Aug 28, Stop sign vandalized in Lot L

Aug 28, Officers investigated verbal dispute on west side of Main Campus

Aug 28, Officers investigated Suspicious Vehicle in Lot L

Parnell Loop

Aug 29, Officers investigated Suspicious Person in Lot M



# **Officers You Should Know**



Officer Ashley Monteleone

Officer Monteleone was born and raised in the Eugene area. She

graduated from Willamette High School.

After high school, Officer Monteleone worked for various employers in the community, including Hynix, Walmart and Solar World. She also worked as a security professional for Securitas. .

Officer Monteleone attended Lane to become an X-ray technician.

Earlier this year, Officer Monteleone successfully completed the Lane County Sheriff's Department's six month Reserve Police Academy. She is currently a reserve police officer for the Junction City Police Department.

Officer Monteleone was hired by Lane's Public Safety Department, in June, as an on call Public Safety Officer.

Officer Monteleone successfully completed Lane's five week Public Safety Academy in July of this vear

In her spare time, Officer Monteleone enjoys running, hiking, shopping and hanging out with family and friends.



## Coping with Stress—By Officer Ben Bower (Public Safety Officer, EMT)



Summertime is already almost over, and before you know it Fall will be upon us, once again. Cooler weather and leaves exploding into color aren't the only things we have to look forward to. Stress, in large quantities, usually arrives in September, as we are preparing for the new school year. Fall Term is by far the most stressful times here at Lane, because we have so many new people freshly graduated from high school joining the returning students. Everyone is vying for parking spaces and classes; add into that mix financial aid, academic counseling, and you have the perfect recipe for anxiety.

Unfortunately, we can't make the stressors in our life just disappear, nor can we program ourselves not to feel stressed. However, there are tricks that we can use to effectively manage our stress and reduce its effect on our lives.

**Take a time-out.** Practice yoga, listen to music, meditate, get a massage, or learn relaxation techniques. Stepping back from the problem helps clear your head.

**Eat well-balanced meals.** Do not skip any meals. Do keep healthful, energy-boosting snacks on hand. **Limit alcohol and caffeine**, which can aggravate anxiety and trigger panic attacks.

**Get enough sleep.** When stressed, your body needs additional sleep and rest.

Exercise daily to help you feel good and maintain your health. Check out the fitness tips below.

Take deep breaths. Inhale and exhale slowly.

Count to 10 slowly. Repeat, and count to 20 if necessary.

**Do your best**. Instead of aiming for perfection, which isn't possible, be proud of however close you get. Accept that you cannot control everything. Put your stress in perspective: Is it really as bad as you think? Welcome humor. A good laugh goes a long way.

Maintain a positive attitude. Make an effort to replace negative thoughts with positive ones.

- Get involved. Volunteer or find another way to be active in your community, which creates a support network and gives you a break from everyday stress.
- Learn what triggers your anxiety. Is it work, family, school, or something else you can identify? Write in a journal when you're feeling stressed or anxious, and look for a pattern.
- **Talk to someone.** Tell friends and family you're feeling overwhelmed, and let them know how they can help you. Talk to a physician or therapist for professional help.



2014 Annual Department Photo

Link to Newsletter: Lanecc.edu/psd/newsletter.html

Your feedback is valuable to us! If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to email me at thomasc@lanecc.edu



Sergeant Chantal Thomas, Officer 2, Editor in Chief