

Computer theft 'virus' plagues University offices

\$40,000 in computer equipment stolen

By Christopher Blair
Emerald Reporter

Computer theft on campus is becoming a problem of almost plague-like proportions: More than \$40,000 in computer equipment has been stolen from University offices just in the past two months.

Computers, mostly Macintoshes, have been stolen from offices in PLC, McArthur Court, the University Housing Department and Lawrence Hall. The majority of the thefts have been from PLC, where the computer science offices have been the hardest hit; \$33,000 in computer equipment has been taken from there in 17 thefts alone.

"Almost every office down there in PLC has a computer in it readily accessible to a lot of people," said Sgt. Mike Cline, head of the Eugene Police Department's campus detail. "That building is kept open until the wee hours of the night, and there's an ungodly amount of keys out there. There's a pretty good access to that building."

"It could be the location too," he said. "It's on the fringe of the campus You can see them (computers) from outside, walk by on Kincaid (Street) and look in the windows and see whose of-

fice has a computer sitting on the desk."

Cline said many computer owners on campus either do not secure their equipment or do so only with the one-eighth-inch cables offered by the Office of Public Safety. The thin cables seem to be inadequate theft deterrents at best though.

"Almost every office down there in PLC has a computer in it readily accessible to a lot of people."

-Sgt. Mike Cline

"They're not a very secure device," Cline said. "They'll slow (thieves) down a little bit, but those cables are being cut, probably with a bolt cutter. They're not that hard to remove."

Cline said he recommends installing sound alarms, which cost anywhere from \$50 to \$200, in rooms where computers are kept.

The computer science department will be moving from PLC to the new computer building near Oregon Hall in



Photo illustration by Bill Haines

Campus safety officials suggest sound alarms to help curb the increase in computer theft. Cables often are no match for a good set of bolt cutters.

May, said Barbara Allen, department accountant. She said theft should decline once the move is made, because the rooms will have new locks.

The locks in PLC have been circumvented in many cases simply with keys or by breaking through door windows and vents to reach inside doorknobs. Thieves broke into Allen's office through a window to steal her computer.

Like most electronic goods, stolen computers are highly unlikely to be recovered. Only two suspects have been apprehended in the last two years, Cline said, and no computer thieves have been caught this year.

Cline and OPS officials recommend either engraving University ID or serial numbers on the machines, stenciling them, or both.

Christian group meets tonight

MEETINGS

International Student Christian Fellowship meets every Friday night at 7:15 at the Alpha Omega House, 1332 Kincaid St. Tonight's topic is "Christ Above All."

Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals meets today at 4 p.m. in EMU Century Room E.

Desert Ducks Affinity Group has a mandato-

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ry meeting tonight at 7 in the EMU Walnut Room for those going to the Nevada Test Site action.

Singapore Student Association annual general meeting is Saturday at 11 a.m. in Gilbert Room 133. Members are encouraged to attend and elect next year's committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

Newman Center has Mass Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The Willamette Christian Center Mime Group will perform in the EMU Courtyard today at 3:30 p.m.

United Campus Ministry Student Group

meets Sunday at 8 p.m. at the Wesley Center, 1236 Kincaid St., to discuss "Social Holiness — Social Consciousness." Devotions, sharing, music and scripture study will be included.

International Week '89 World Forum Day. Schedule of today's events:

- 10:30 to noon — Differences and Similarities" cultural workshop by Carla Gery in the EMU Forum Room.
- 1 p.m. — "Human Rights and Environmental Concerns in Guatemala and Nicaragua," lecture by Margaret Thomas, director of the Portland Council for Human Rights in Latin America, in the EMU Forum Room.
- 4 p.m. — International Coffee Hour in the EMU International Lounge.
- 7 p.m. — 9 p.m. "Women's Roles in the World," panel and film presentation in the EMU Forum Room.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. Et als are run the day of the event unless the event occurs before noon. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Events occurring nearest the publication date and campus events will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit notices for grammar and style.

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