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TODAY

Today is last day to drop a class without a mark of 'W' recorded and without being charged a \$10 fee.



INSIDE

UCLA runs over Oregon, handing the Ducks their first loss this season at Autzen Stadium

Dave Frohnmayer is officially inaugurated as the 15th University President

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WEATHER

Sunny after morning fog. High 75. Low 45.

Oregon Daily Emerald

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IN FOCUS: POLITICS

"I think the best thing going for Bob Dole is that Bob Dole keeps his word."

— Bob Dole
Republican Candidate



"It is not midnight in America, senator: We are better off than we were four years ago"

— President Bill Clinton
Democratic Candidate



Candidates battle over future

DEBATES: Clinton and Dole try to concentrate on issues, such as education and the economy

By John King
The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — President Clinton and Bob Dole clashed vigorously over tax cuts, Medicare, education and the economy Sunday night in a spirited prime-time debate over who should be trusted to lead America into the 21st century.

"I think the best thing going for Bob Dole is that Bob Dole keeps his word," the Republican challenger said in the 90-minute debate, which experts consider critical to his hopes of launching an October comeback.

"It is not midnight in America, senator: We are better off than we were four years ago," Clinton said in making his case for a second term.

Clinton took credit for an economy that created more than 10 million jobs, for cutting the deficit by 60 percent and for vetoing Dole-backed Republican budgets he asserted would have cut \$270 billion from Medicare and another \$30 billion from education.

Looking ahead, Clinton said his \$100 billion in tax credits targeted to making college more affordable were far more responsible than Dole's "\$550 billion tax scheme."

"We have the right approach for the future," Clinton said.

Dole forcefully disagreed, and accused Clinton of running a campaign

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ANDREW BRACKENSICK/Emerald

Carlene Gregory watches the presidential debate at Rennie's Landing on Sunday. Students and community members gathered at Rennie's to watch the presidential debate.

Students say they feel disillusioned with debates

REACTION: Some say debates offer little but media glitz and surface treatment of issues

By Shana Cohn
Politics Editor

The group of about 40 students gathered under the dim lights at Rennie's Landing Sunday night were feisty — and it wasn't just from the beer in their system.

The main event was the first of two presidential debates between President Bill Clinton and Republican-hopeful, Bob Dole. While some students joked and shouted at the television during the 90-minute debate, others watched in silence wearing pensive expressions.

"They're just throwing a bunch of wrong numbers at each other," said Craig Perman, a senior in public policy. "It's misleading to hear them talk like this. I don't think anyone's going to be won over by this debate so far."

Although the crowd consisted mostly of Democrats, some students were still unsure for whom to vote.

"I haven't made up my mind between Clinton and [Ralph] Nader [the Pacific Party candidate]," said Will Bunker, a senior in sociology. "Nader is more in line with my beliefs, but I'm worried it would be just like another vote for Dole."

Watching the debates didn't help Bunker come any closer to a decision.

"I don't think real dialogue is happen-

ing," he said. "I wouldn't base my vote on a debate."

Robert Poll, who has refused to vote in the last three elections, agreed the debate was useless.

"There are so many other candidates out there that we need to listen to," said Poll, a former journalism major. "Politics are not meant to be based on a two party system. Groups like the Green Party and the Reform Party will never have a say, no matter how much they fight."

The Commission on Presidential Debates limited the debates to the two major parties because they were the only ones determined to have a "realistic chance" of

Turn to **REACTION**, Page 7

University area susceptible to mail theft

TARGET: Students opening new bank accounts can lose money if checks or ATM cards are stolen

By Jean Bond
Community Reporter

The University area could be a prime target for mail thieves, according to Eugene Public Safety.

Mail theft in Eugene is on the rise, said Public Information Officer Jan Power. One local public safety officer recently recovered a sack of mail stolen from 59 Eugene-area residents, she said.

"It's really been a problem all up and down the I-5 corridor," said Sara Buchanan of the Eugene Post Office.

Theft has been concentrated in the 97401 and 97405 zip code areas, she said.

"Just because the campus area isn't an area of concentration now doesn't mean it's not happening there," she said.

University students could be easy targets for mail theft because they are moving from their homes to the University area right now.

"With so many students in transit, they might not notice missing mail," Power said.

Many students are also opening up new checking accounts at this time of the year, and could have their check orders stolen from their mailboxes, Buchanan said.

The time period between the theft to the time the victim discovers the theft is often one to two months. A thief can steal thousands of dollars in this time, Power said.

Thieves can alter and re-use canceled checks returned in bank statements. They can also steal credit cards or bank cards, PIN numbers, government checks and identification from unsecured mailboxes.

Mail thieves tend to be highly organized and know how to avoid being caught, Power said. Some thieves even follow mail carriers and steal mail almost as soon as it is dropped off, Buchanan said.

"If people see anyone suspicious, they should call the police or the post office right away," she said.

TIPS

Public safety officials recommend these steps to prevent mail theft:

- Don't leave payments in an unsecured mailbox for the mail carrier to pick up. Instead, deposit payments in a secured U.S. mail drop box.

- Use direct deposit instead of receiving government or other checks through the mail.

- Put vacation holds on mail or have a reliable neighbor pick up mail.

- Pick mail up promptly.

- Pick up check orders at the bank instead of having them mailed.

- Never send cash through the mail.

- If students think they have had mail stolen, they should call the police department and the post office immediately.