THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1996

INDEX

TODAY

Today is the 75TH anniversary of Beall Concert Hall and a free reception will take place there at 7p.m.

INSIDE

WEATHER

Chance of Showers. High 70. Low 45.

Oregon Daily Emerald

University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

An independent newspaper
Volume 98, Issue 27

IN FOCUS: MONEY

CREDIT LIMIT

The high cost of college and the Eugene lifestyle can drive students deep into credit card debt

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DENNIS BOLT & ANDREW BRACKENSICK /Emerald

By Tamyra Howser
Higher Education Reporter

Fifth-year senior Mike Ross received his first credit card over a year ago — a shiny, blue AT&T Universal Mastercard.

"I needed it really bad," the psychology student said. "I had a summer job that would only pay me at the end of the summer. So, I depended on this card for a month and a half for food and rent. It put me in the hole real fast."

Now Ross, 22, said his credit card debt is nearly $1,200, while his student loans are approaching $20,000. He doesn't worry about his debt and is sure that he will pay it off when finished with college.

"It doesn't help to worry," he said. "As far as right now, I have to pay what I can since I'm in school."

Nationwide, students are borrowing more money to stay afloat despite college costs. The average debt for those in their 20s is nearly $11,000. Two years ago, it was $6,600, according to Claritas Inc., a California-based market research firm.

"Credit cards may not seem like [actual] money," said Roberta Dubois, director of Consumer Credit Counseling Services in Eugene. "It's very hard to resist temptations ... and the immediate needs and flexibility of convenience becomes the problem."

STUDENT FINANCES

College students are the latest targets for credit card companies. Twenty-somethings are the most vulnerable market population as well. They earn the least amount of money, but are often given large credit lines.

"The large population of students is appealing to companies, who want to build lifelong partnerships with them," Dubois said. "It's not in their best interest to target a market where they'll lose

Turn to **CREDIT**, Page 8

THE NUMBERS

SIGNS OF A CREDIT CARD CRISIS:

- You are denied credit
- You're only making minimum payments
- You have no idea how much you owe
- You're working overtime or taking a second job to pay bills
- You're using credit cards to pay other credit card bills
- You receive the infamous collection call or letter

FACTS OF CREDIT CARD DEBT:

1. The average American has four credit cards and owes $3,900 (Source: Bank Card Holders of America).
2. If you owe $3,500 on a credit card at 18 percent interest and regularly make the minimum payments, it will take 40 years to pay off the debt. You will pay $9,431 in interest, on top of the $3,500 debt (Source: State Journal Register).

ASUO ballot measure bans some institutions

■ **LOBBY:** *Groups that fight against student aid are forbidden from operating on campus*

By Tamyra Howser
Higher Education Reporter

University students took action last April by passing an ASUO ballot measure stating that financial institutions which seek to limit or eliminate student financial aid programs are unwelcome on campus.

Corporations such as Citibank, Chemical Bank and Sallie Mae have spent millions lobbying members of Congress to eliminate federal grant programs, according to the United States Student Association.

USSA says the institutions also lobby against programs to allow student loan payback through high-need employment, community service and national service as well as lobbying to eliminate the Direct Lending Program, which funds financial aid at the University.

However, Gisela Vallandigham, the assistant vice president of corporate communications for Sallie Mae, denied any such lobbying activity.

"No, that is not true," she said. "Sallie Mae provides funding for student loans so we don't get involved with grants. We were not involved in any lobbying activity that would cut federal grants."

A Citibank representative who set up his booth in the EMU and was handing out applications was "very surprised" when he heard about the measure.

"I just found out about it today," he said. "I am a private

Turn to **LOBBY**, Page 8

High-speed chase leads to arrest

■ **PURSUIT:** *Eugene man flees from police after they attempt to pull him over for a turn signal violation*

By Jean Bond
Community Reporter

Police arrested a 37-year-old Eugene man following a high-speed chase through Springfield and Eugene on Wednesday afternoon.

The chase started when Springfield police tried to stop James Irving Minter for a turn signal violation, said Sgt. Gary Stewart of the Springfield police department. Minter attempted to elude police through back streets for a short time before heading west on Franklin Blvd. Minter then cut through a parking lot near Sixth Avenue, doubling back on Franklin Blvd. into Glenwood.

In Glenwood, he attempted to elude police again with a series of quick turns in residential areas, Stewart said. Eventually, he got back on Franklin Blvd. driving west again. When Minter got into heavy traffic on Franklin Blvd. in front of the University, he drove onto the center strip, almost hitting a bicyclist.

A Eugene police officer intentionally broadsided Minter's gray Dodge Aries to stop the chase near the intersection of Franklin Blvd. and Agate Street.

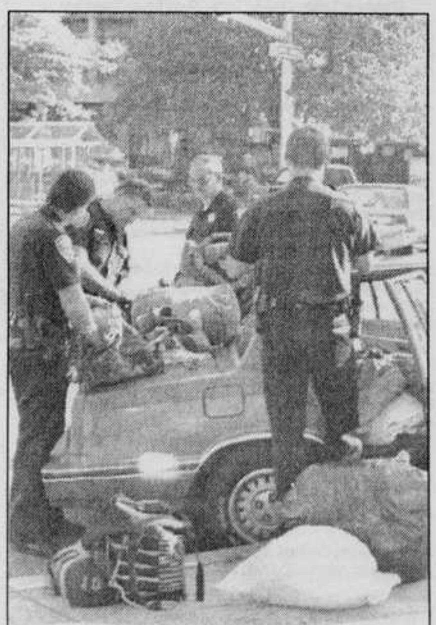
The chase reached speeds of 80 to 90 mph, Stewart said.

Minter was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court for driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, criminal mischief and attempting to elude the police. Eugene police may file other charges as well, said Captain Jerry Smith, Springfield police department information officer.

Police searched Minter's car Wednesday afternoon, but found nothing of significance.

When Springfield police first tried to pull Minter over, there was a woman in the car

Turn to **PURSUIT**, Page 3



MATHEW STIFFLER/Emerald

Officers sift through the contents of the car involved in the high speed chase.