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- ✓ FR 101 CRN: 22758
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- ✓ FR 101 CRN: 22759
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(Accelerated course:
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- ✓ ITAL 104 CRN: 23053
10:00 - 10:50 MUWHF
- ✓ ITAL 104 CRN: 23054
11:00 - 11:50 MUWHF

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Access to DMV records may change

■ **BILL:** A panel discussed possible effects of the Boxer Amendment on individual rights of privacy and ability to get public information

By Jennifer Carter
Managing Editor

Writing handicap-parking violators. Using the vehicle identification number to check out the history of a used car.

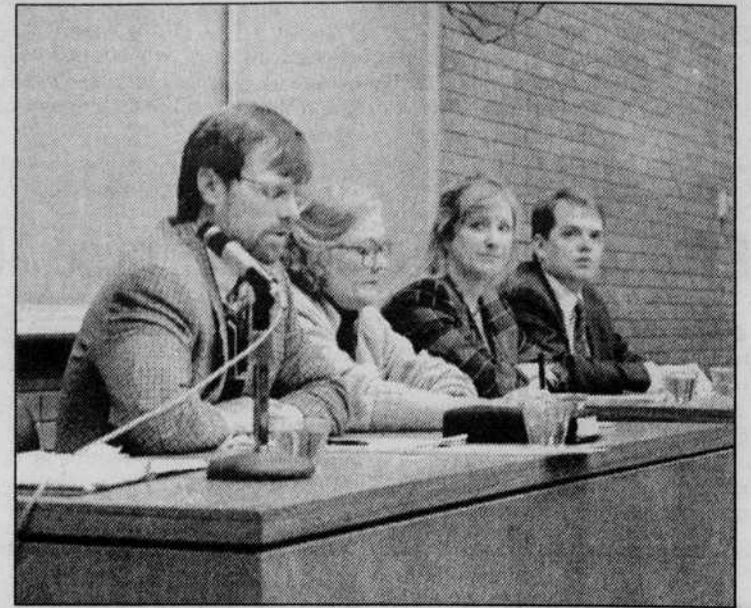
These are just two ways Department of Motor Vehicle records are used by people every day. By next fall, these uses could stop.

An amendment to the Federal Crime Bill called the Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, or the Boxer Amendment, would prohibit DMV offices from releasing records after Sept. 13, 1997. Individual states, however, can keep records open if they pass opt-out laws by September. These laws could allow individual drivers to decide whether their information should be accessible like other public records.

One catalyst for the drafting of the Boxer Amendment was the 1989 murder of actress Rebecca Schaefer, who starred on "My Sister Sam." Schaefer's murderer was able to find her home with the help of DMV records, which were obtained through a private investigator.

An Oregon journalist, supporter of battered women, legislative aide and media advocate voiced their concerns over how the Boxer Amendment could affect people's right to privacy and right to access public information Monday night during a panel discussion in Law School Room 129.

Gail Ryder, the director of government affairs for the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, said her organization has created an opt-out bill to be introduced in the state's next legislative session. The proposed bill contains language that would



MATHEW STIFFLER/Emerald

Moderator Tim Gleason (left), Rebecca Force, Gail Ryder and John Henrikson were members of a panel Monday that discussed public accessibility to Department of Motor Vehicle records.

allow individuals to limit disclosure of DMV records to members of media, businesses and people with interests pertaining to areas such as public safety and dissemination of information.

She said the passage of an opt-out bill will be difficult because of conflicting interpretations of privacy and the public interest.

Joan Patrick, the community educator for Womenspace, an organization that assists battered women, said her organization is concerned about how access to records can affect people's safety.

"We're concerned about men out there, batterers, who are killing women," she said. "We're talking about records going underground — we have to face the fact that women are going underground."

Patrick said she thinks it is important for the public to have access to records, but also feels people should have the option to maintain privacy if they feel they

are at risk of harm.

John Henrikson, a reporter for the Salem Statesman Journal, said he is concerned people will perceive themselves as being safer than they actually are if DMV records become private. He said he is concerned restrictions on DMV records will lead to restrictions on other public records. He said while the safety issue is serious, people also need to examine what causes crime.

"People kill people; public records don't kill people," he said.

Rebecca Force, a former news director for KEZI and a legislative aide for Rep. Cynthia Wooten, said the growing immediacy of access to information — and not the material itself — through technology like the Internet is what is causing people to be concerned about privacy.

"It's the speed at which material is now available that is so frightening," she said.

Many students will be heading for home to spend the Thanksgiving Holiday away from the University, but for those who are not leaving during the holiday, the residence halls will be open.

Food service for those days will be closed, however, for the entire holiday. The last meal to be



served will be dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 27. Food service in the residence halls will resume with

breakfast on Monday, Dec. 2.

The Knight Library will be closing at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27 and will remain closed on Thanksgiving day. The library will reopen for regular hours on Friday, Nov. 29.

— compiled by Tom Potter

Freshman Seminars

WINTER 1997

ENROLL NOW

PREFIX	TITLE
PS 199	Theories of Leadership
ENG 199	Science Fiction: A New Mythology?
BI 199	Plagues: The Past, Present, and Future of Infectious Diseases
BA 199	Entrepreneurs: For Real?
PPPM 199	Creating Connection, Becoming Community
INTL 199	Perceiving Asia and Asian Perceptions of the West
HC 199	The Nonverbal and Verbal Dimensions of Building Community
CPSY 199	Homosexuality in the '90s: Developmental and Societal Issues
EDPM 199	Cross-Cultural Encounters in the Classroom
BI 199	Cascadia Bioregion: Biological and Cultural Foundations
INTL 199	Indigenous America: Cultural Survival
EDUC 199	Helping Families and Children: Exploring the Human Services Community
AAD 199	Talk about Art
SOC 199	Ecology and Democracy: The Struggle for Environmental Justice
EDPM 199	Building Community Inside and Out

For more information, see pages 107-8 in the winter UO Schedule of Classes.



FRESHMAN SEMINARS

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