

Service: New technology uses existing phone lines

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nounced Universal ADSL Working Group. The group consists of leading companies in the personal computer, networking and telecommunications industries.

"Now people will have the speed and simplicity to make the Internet a vital and useful part of their lives, all at affordable prices and over their existing phone lines," Trujillo said in the news release.

ADSL lets customers maintain a continuous, digital connection to the Internet or other data networks over a dedicated portion of their existing phone lines with no dial-up required. To access the service, customers simply open their Internet browser software. By logging on, users will be able to

make or receive phone calls over the same line while simultaneously surfing the Internet.

Subscribers will receive increased security and reliability because the service offers customers their own private digital connection off the standard voice network. This will eliminate slow Internet access caused by the sharing of copper or fiber-optic cable lines with other on-line users.

"This is a renaissance of the copper network," said Joe Zell, president of US West enterprise networking, in the press release. "MegaBit Services gives US West customers the ability to finally get maximum value out of the Internet, and it enables businesses to establish office-quality, work-at-home connections."

NEWS BRIEFS

Smith will plead not guilty to charges

Oregon quarterback Akili Smith will plead not guilty to charges of drunken driving today in Eugene Municipal Court, his lawyer, Ken Morrow, said Thursday.

Smith, 22, was arrested and charged with drunken driving early Feb. 14 and was tested at a blood alcohol level of .07, according to a Eugene police report.

Smith will have 30 days following the arraignment to enter a diversion program or to decide to go to trial, Morrow said.

Smith will also face charges of fourth-degree assault, second-degree trespassing and two counts of harassment in Springfield Municipal Court on March 5 at 8 a.m. for his suspected involvement in the beating of Mill Camp Saloon bouncer Steve Underwood on Feb. 1.

Smith and former Oregon

running back Saladin McCullough — who faces charges of fourth-degree assault, second-degree trespassing and harassment for the same incident — will plead not guilty to those charges.

U.S. Bank robbed on 13th Avenue

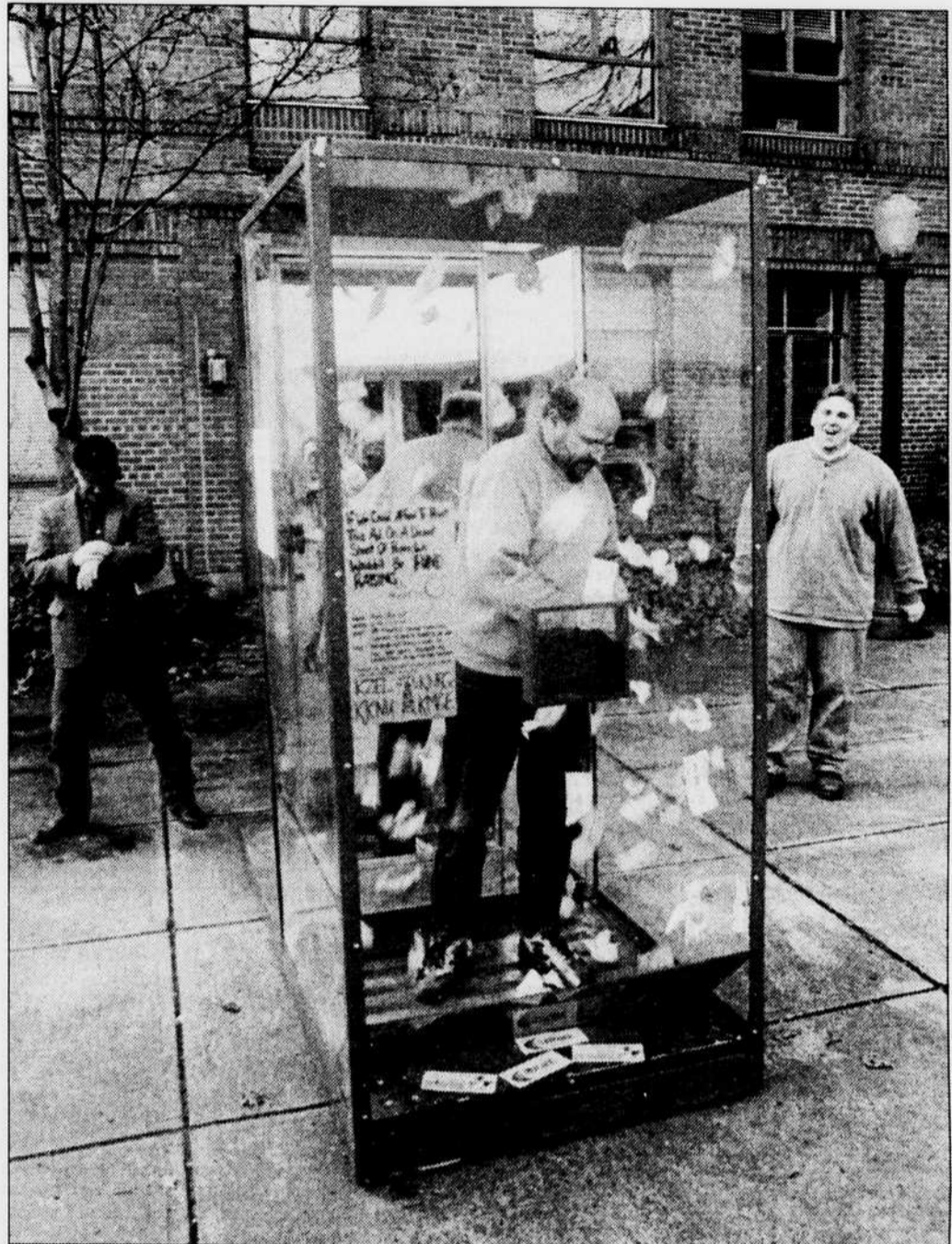
The U.S. Bank branch at 810 E. 13th St. was robbed at about 5 p.m. Thursday evening.

Police said a lone suspect approached a teller and demanded money. The suspect simulated a weapon and left the bank with an unknown amount of money.

The suspect is described as a white male in his 30s, six feet tall, weighing 230 to 250 pounds, with dark brown hair, clean shaven, and wearing a brown knit beanie cap, dark sunglasses, green flannel shirt and jeans.

The investigation is continuing.

A fistful of dollars



MATT GARTON/Emerald

School of Journalism and Communication professor Bill Ryan tries to grab as much of the fake money flying around him as possible during a fund raiser outside Allen Hall Thursday afternoon. Participants had only 15 seconds to grab as much money as they could. The money in the booth was fake, and participants who got enough of the money could "buy" prizes.

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