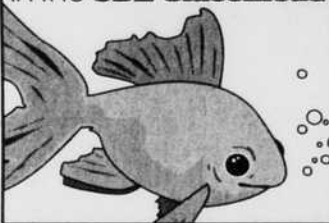


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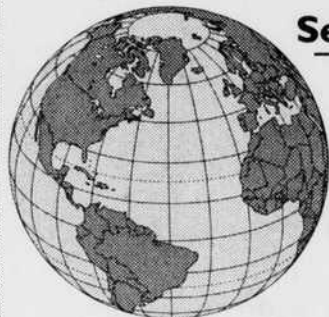
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New system allows IDs to be debit cards

The EMU will be a test site before expansion to the bookstore or other areas is considered

By Amy Goldhammer
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University hopes to finally be joining many other universities and colleges around the country in a few months by installing a new debit card system that will allow students to charge products and food directly to their University account.

"This card system has been talked about for years and years and years," said Dusty Miller, EMU director. "There are a lot of components to a campus-based 'one card.'"

The one-card system basically means you can do it all, Miller said. Most one-card systems use a debit-based method, allowing students or parents to prepay or put money in the account at any time. Miller said this will create a positive balance of credits.

When the card is used anywhere on campus that is hooked up to the system, students will have purchasing power without actual money, Miller said. The idea behind the debit card system is easy access, safe access and the freedom of not having to carry cash, he said.

"People will be able to go around campus in a cashless fashion, without having to worry about carrying currency," said Theresa Coleman-Kaiser, food service manager of the EMU.

However, the card system has not been introduced yet because it is expensive for the University and start-up costs are substantial, Miller said.

The EMU Board of Directors knew the renovation would be a backbone for the card system, Miller said. The board was aware that in the renovation, it would be essential to purchase new point-of-sale cash registers, he said.

"These cash registers are equipped to accept the debit cards," Coleman-Kaiser said. "All registers will be linked to-

gether and help keep track of inventory and product movement."

The new cash registers will not only be able to transfer money for goods, but the information about the transactions, Miller said. The system will eventually allow students to purchase anything from tickets at the box office to clay in the craft center. Both Miller and Coleman-Kaiser feel the card system will attract business.

"I think it will be very convenient for customers," Coleman-Kaiser said. "This system will only be adding to the ease of making purchases."

The new card system will be convenient, fast and safe for users," Miller said. "The only risk is losing the card, and your picture is on it anyway."

If a card is lost or misplaced, the card center will be able to stop that account when notified.

The card system will eventually expand further to include vending machines throughout the University, Miller said.

Currently, the University Bookstore is not involved in the new card system because its general managers have not been approached with this proposal yet, he said. However, Miller said he feels the card system will be a good opportunity for the bookstore and its customers.

"The EMU will start the debit system with its food services and possibly some vending first," Miller said. "We'll see how it is received before we go outside the University to the Bookstore or to other services."

After ID cards are issued to incoming freshmen and new students, the card office will need to get the system functioning, he said. Returning University students will not need to get a new ID card with new strips in order to use the new card system, Miller said.

"We're pretty convinced right now there will be no need for new strips or new cards," Miller said. "This will save a large amount of money and time."

The new card system could be up and running by winter term, Coleman-Kaiser said.

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