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'Suspicious device' found outside of Oregon Hall

■ The tennis ball-shaped object, which was destroyed by a robot called a 'disrupter,' resembled 'ball bombs' found in Portland in 2000

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Eugene Police Department used a robot rover to destroy a "suspicious device" outside Oregon Hall on Thursday afternoon. EPD spokeswoman Pam Alejandre said the device was designed to look like a bomb, but it wasn't an actual explosive.

Police moved a crowd of onlookers hundreds of feet away from the building before the robot destroyed the device at 2:15 p.m., creating a "pop" sound like a small firecracker, which some people

believed to be an explosion.

Department of Public Safety Lt. Joan Saylor said an Oregon Hall employee called DPS at 12:37 p.m. about a suspicious device laying in the strip of grass outside Oregon Hall between the curb and the sidewalk.

Saylor described the bomb as a tennis ball-shaped sphere wrapped in black electrical tape with a small cord coming out of it. Saylor said the shape matched that of six "ball-bombs" found by Portland police in 2000. One of those bombs killed a Portland police dog.

EPD and DPS corralled Oregon Hall and the University Health Center with yellow crime-scene tape. Saylor said people in both buildings were moved to back rooms and hallways but were not evacuated. Parts of Agate Street and 15th Avenue were also blocked off, in-

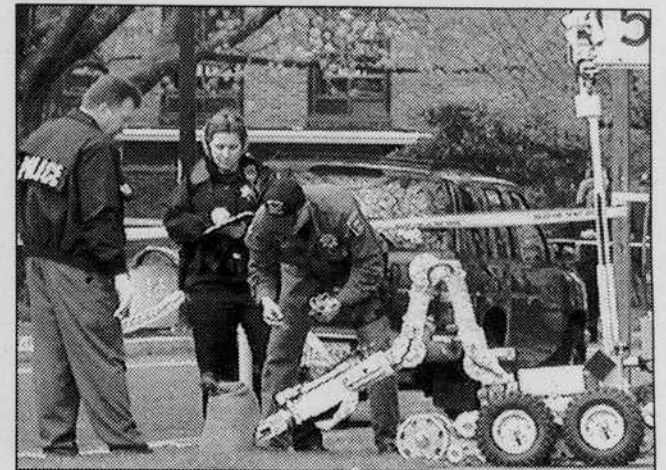
cluding the entrance to the University on Franklin Boulevard. Traffic ways were completely reopened by 2:30 p.m.

EPD deployed a metallic, four-wheeled robot vehicle called a "disrupter," which Saylor said blasted a high-pressure stream of water to destroy the object. Before the object fired, officers moved people back to the steps of Carson Hall and behind the health center.

Over a loudspeaker, an officer announced, "Fire in the hole. Fire in the hole. Take cover. Take cover," then came the small popping sound.

Shortly after, EPD officers approached the object and began investigating it for clues. But Alejandre said the destroyed object produced no leads.

"Unless someone comes forward
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Russell Weller Emerald

Eugene Police officers carefully examine the 'suspicious package' following the robot-aided destruction early Thursday afternoon.

Let's go dancin'!



Adam Jones Emerald

Under the approving gaze of country legend Garth Brooks, Carol Morrison (right center) demonstrates a dance called 'Temptation' for the line dancing club on Monday evening at their weekly meeting in Rock 'N' Rodeo.

Boot Scootin'

■ Country line dancing offers fun and exercise for devotees who frequent Rock 'N' Rodeo

By Lisa Toth
Oregon Daily Emerald

Heel, toe, shuffle shuffle — Stomp! It's the repetitive patterns of line dancing that can make the head spin and the feet dizzy. But more advanced dancers add their own interpretive styles to basic routines such as "Tush Push" or "Power Jam."

More than a country music staple, line dancing is a form of exercise for people of all ages and abilities, from the senior citizens at Willamalane Senior Adult Activity Center to

the western-clad country lovers at Rock 'N' Rodeo. Rock 'N' Rodeo, a line dancing club started in 1993, is putting a new twist on old traditions on Monday nights.

Carol Morrison, an instructor of five years who lives in Eugene and runs a craft business during the day, said she loves dancing at night. She said a large crowd of college students usually hits the bright dance floor

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Safety issues rise from plans to offer more late classes

■ With lower-cost afternoon and evening classes proposed to start fall term, issues concerning more students on campus after dark are cropping up

This is the last in a three-part series about campus safety

Today: The University's tuition incentives for students taking late classes may increase the number of students traversing campus after dark.

Thursday: The University, the Department of Public Safety and the Eugene Police Department have increased campus patrols.

Wednesday: The history of reported attacks against women on campus.

By Kara Cogswell
Oregon Daily Emerald

If the administration's tuition incentives proposal is approved by the State Board of Higher Education as expected this month, beginning fall term, additional classes will be offered at a discounted price in the late afternoon and early evening.

As a result, the number of people on campus during those hours is likely to double next year — and more students will be leaving their classrooms after dark, the time of day when most recent attacks on campus have occurred.

But whether more students on campus in the evening is a cause for concern or a step toward making campus a safer place remains unclear.

University Provost John Moseley believes having more people in the area will make it less likely for an attacker to find someone in an isolated location. Campus safety advocates and student government leaders agree, but they say it remains to be seen whether safety issues related to the later scheduling will arise.

More people on campus could increase safety

The tuition incentives proposal is aimed at maximizing classroom capacity and providing more choices for students. With enrollment rising again next year, the University needs to use all the time and space available for classes, Moseley said.

"We're going to have to pretty much use all of our classroom capacity all day," he said.

Typically, the number of students on campus drops significantly after 2 p.m. each day, but with discounts offered next year on classes beginning at 3, 4 and 5 p.m., Moseley said he expects to see twice as many students on campus in the late afternoon and early evening. Discounted courses will generally be large classes, in the 50+ range, because scheduling availability of large classrooms is limited earlier in the day.

Although classes beginning at 4 and 5 p.m. may end after dark in the winter months, Moseley said having more students and faculty members on campus later in the day will actually increase safety, because attacks are less likely to take place in populated areas.

"Having more people on campus makes for a safer environment in and of itself," he said.

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Campus greek chapters turn alcohol-free

■ Announcement to greek system initiates alcohol-free housing

By Kara Cogswell
Oregon Daily Emerald

By next year, all greek chapters must have alcohol-free housing if they want to continue to be affiliated with the University. This announcement came as a surprise to greek system student leaders at a meeting Wednesday night.

"We knew we were going to have to go dry eventually, but it came on so suddenly," Kappa Sigma fraternity president Jordan Sezler said. "It was pretty much a shock to everyone who was there."

While the decision may have been unexpected by some members, administrators and Greek Life advisers and alumni have been considering the change for the past year, Associated Vice President for Student Affairs Anne Leavitt said. Students have been involved in that discussion in the past as well, she said, but current chapter presidents may not have because of turnover in student leadership.

As it is now, all the University's sororities, but not even half the fraternities, have alcohol-free housing. This disparity has created a confusing social policy and a "double standard" within the greek system, Leavitt said.

"The social policy is completely mysterious now to students who are living under it," she said. "It's too hard to enforce."

In May, she said, University President Dave Frohnmayer plans to write a letter to national fraternity offices advising them of University policy. Chapters that do not comply will not be able to receive Greek Life services or participate in Greek Life events and councils.

The University will work with fraternity members to educate them about the new policy and help them make the switch to alcohol-free housing, she said.

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