

Federal agents raid Eugene glass blowers

Monday's action comes as part of nationwide indictments against distributors of drug paraphernalia

Brook Reinhard and Ali Shaughnessy
Staff Writers

Federal law enforcement agents served indictments to dozens of glass blowing manufacturers and headshops nationwide Monday in a series of raids, confiscating millions of dollars worth of drug- and tobacco-related paraphernalia. At least 55 people were indicted, including two Eugene businessmen that own a glass manufacturing company, a distributorship, a local retail shop and multiple Web sites.

Attorney General John Ashcroft announced Monday in a press conference

that the Drug Enforcement Agency now considers glass pipes and other equipment "drug paraphernalia" that may be confiscated and used as grounds for arrests under federal law.

Higher Source, located several blocks west of campus at 135 E. 13th Ave., was one of six locations in Eugene served with a search-and-seizure warrant Monday morning. Higher Source is co-owned by Jason Harris and Saeed Mohtadi. Both were indicted for "knowingly, intentionally and unlawfully (selling) items for use with illegal narcotics," according to a DEA press release. Harris and Mohtadi are both in custody and will appear in federal court this morning, and friends of Harris say they have not been in contact with him for the past two days.

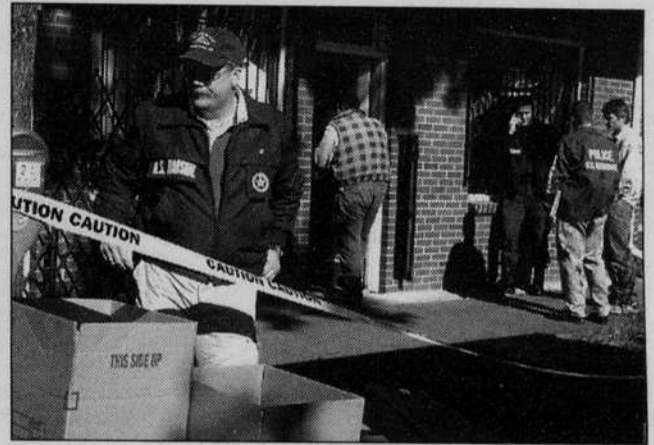
U.S. Marshals roped off the area

around the store and started a long process of "bringing empty boxes in, and taking full ones out," said Tim Long, the owner of Eugene Jeans — a store located across the street from the bust.

DEA Seattle field division spokesman Thomas O'Brien said businesses that sell tobacco-related products such as water pipes are in danger of breaking federal law under the DEA's new interpretation.

"If these bongs are being used to inhale controlled substances, they're illegal," said O'Brien, whose division encompasses Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Alaska. However, according to federal law, drug paraphernalia is equipment which is primarily intended for use with marijuana or other controlled substances. If a

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Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Federal law enforcement raided Higher Source Monday morning as part of Attorney General John Ashcroft's "Pipe Dreams" operation.

All fired up



Max Johnson is a third-year multimedia student and among other things, an accomplished fire swinger, chain mail artist and video producer.
Mark McCambridge
Emerald

Individuality to the Max

Junior Max Johnson juggles interests as old as making chainmail and as new as multimedia design

Ducks in profile

Aimee Rudin
Family/Health/Education Reporter

Many people have relaxing hobbies, hobbies they perform when they watch movies and chill out, like building model airplanes or knitting sweaters. But Max Johnson knits cold, hard steel into chainmail — as in what King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table wore.

"It's exactly like knitting, only it's manly knitting," said Johnson, a third-

year multimedia student.

Johnson's hobbies are not limited to making and designing chainmail, however. He is also an artist, a video producer, a raver, a fire swinger, and a self-proclaimed and self-acclaimed geek.

"I am in a major that requires me to sit behind a computer for every class. I

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Title IX forum makes equality main priority

Despite a low turnout, panelists, including Bev Smith, discussed the history and future of women athletes in relation to Title IX

Caron Alarab
Safety/Crime/Transportation Reporter

The YWCA held an open forum Monday night to discuss recent developments and challenges in the fight to preserve Title IX. Less than a dozen students, YWCA representatives and community members attended the event, which ran until 8:45 p.m. and focused on information presented by a panel of three individuals, including Duck women's basketball coach Bev Smith.

"We've been very lucky here at the University," Smith said. "And now they're trying to cut (Title IX) when it's just getting somewhere."

"They" — the 15-member commission of government-appointed reviewers — were established in 2002 in order to perform a series of evaluations of Title IX in response to eight questions posed by the Department of Education. Once the commission has finished answering these questions, the department will assess whether to minimize Title IX requirements or leave them as they are. Panel member Becky Sisley said that time is soon to come.

"We are at a threshold of knowing what will change and what will stay the same" she said.

YWCA financial coordinator Krista Trask opened the meeting with a short introduction, including the YWCA's decision to focus their annual women's sports event on

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Smith

WEATHER

Today: High 52, Low 25, mostly sunny, light winds

Wednesday: High 45, Low 35, mostly cloudy, breezy

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday

Many fraternity members have changed behavior in response to the University's alcohol ban

Thursday

Sin is definitely back!

News briefs

Open forum allows for West University feedback

The West University Neighborhood Forum is hosting a community open house at 5 p.m. today and a series of small group discussions for neighborhood residents at 5:45 p.m. in the Central Presbyterian Church, located at 1475 Ferry St. Area residents, property owners and business managers are encouraged to drop in anytime during the event, which will run until about 7:30 p.m.

"It's really an informal chance for students to ask questions and make suggestions so that we can change the neighborhood for the better," Ward 3 City Councilor David Kelly said.

The forum will allow residents to learn about pressing local issues and potential solutions identified by the task force.

Topics of discussion will include neighborhood building, housing
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Political clubs wage battle during debate tonight

Battle lines have been drawn, and tonight the College Democrats and College Republicans will duel in a battle of minds from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room. It will be the two student groups' first joint debate this school year.

College Republicans Co-chairman Jarrett White said the debate is not going to be a shouting match, but a structured discussion with opening statements, rebuttals, closing arguments and question-and-answer sessions.

"It's not going to be arguing or trying to yell over each other at all," White said.

College Democrats Co-chairman Eric Bailey agreed, saying that the purpose of the debate is to inform students about the different
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