



EPD finds suspicious bag near station

Police evacuated several stores near East 13th Avenue Thursday while HAZMAT teams removed a black plastic bag from the area

Brook Reinhard
News Editor

A suspicious package at the University Police Station closed two blocks of East 13th Avenue for a little more than two hours Thursday afternoon, as dozens of police officers, firefighters and hazardous material teams swarmed the station and eventually removed a black plastic garbage bag with the word "anthrax" handwritten on it.

The bag was X-rayed, covered by a larger plas-

tic bag, placed in the trunk of a maroon police vehicle and taken away for further testing at the FBI crime lab in Portland. Eugene Police Department spokeswoman Kerry Delf confirmed that the bag didn't contain explosives, but she said authorities needed to complete testing before they could verify whether it contained anthrax or other chemical or biological agents.

EPD spokeswoman Pam Olshanski said EPD at the University station noticed the bag outside the building just before 4 p.m. Officers immediately called 911 and stayed inside until police and hazardous material teams arrived.

One witness, Carlin Sage, said officers inside the station then walked out and began roping off

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The police station on the corner of Alder Street and East 13th Avenue discovered a black plastic bag with the word "anthrax" written on it around 4 p.m. Thursday afternoon. The package was removed for further testing in Portland after it was X-rayed and determined to be free of explosives. Danielle Hickey Emerald

American Sign Language



Brook Reinhard Emerald

Graduate student Stormi Cannon collects signatures to make American Sign Language an option for the University's foreign language requirement. More than 30 people gathered on the steps of Johnson Hall on Thursday afternoon in an effort to get the University to recognize ASL. Cannon said she first became aware of the intricacies of ASL years ago when she met a deaf person who inspired her. "I've been fighting to get ASL into the University for six years now," she said. "I think it's an awesome language, and the University ought to do more than just talk about it."

Students opt out of many Friday classes

Classroom activity on Fridays at the University is about 36 percent less than average; universities attempt to bring Friday back to the school week

Lindsay Sauvé
Family/Health/Education Reporter

The coffee is hot at the Buzz, University offices are open and classes are in session, but instead of the typical herd of students lugging backpacks, bustling down the sidewalks of East 13th Avenue, only a handful remain.

For students who are able to fit a full course load into four days, Friday is the beginning of a long weekend. Architecture student Elizabeth Reed said she prefers to have a three-day weekend but had to register for a required class that's held 1-5 p.m. on Fridays. Sometimes it's difficult to force herself to attend.

"I try to be there every Friday but it's difficult, especially when I took the class over winter term, and I'd leave early to go skiing," Reed said. "Freshman year, I had classes that docked students when they didn't attend, but by senior year, it's a bit more lenient."

Economics GTF Bill Hall, who teaches a microeconomics course on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, said there is a noticeable decrease in attendance for the Friday class. Hall estimated last Friday that only about 50 students attended, but about 150 are registered for the class.

"It depends on whether the sun shines," Hall said. "Last Friday was a really sunny day."

Though some universities have a mandatory attendance policy, the University leaves it up to professors and instructors whether to penalize students for not attending. Hall said he prefers the current policy because it means his classroom is more likely to be filled with students who are interested.

"I do try to create incentives for students to come to class," Hall added.

A recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education revealed some universities are trying to re-create methods of class

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Alumnus recognizes athletes

University graduate Herman Brame is working to gain recognition for the school's first black athletes in order to make the University's history complete

Roman Gokhman
Campus/City Culture Reporter

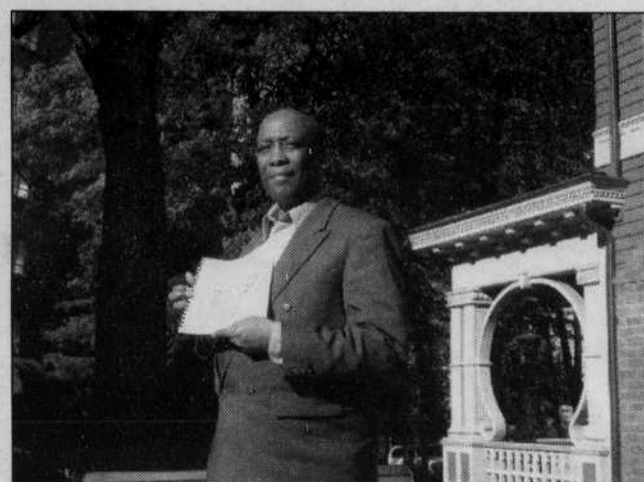
The 1920s was a period of change in Oregon. The Oregon Constitution, created in 1857, forbade black people from coming into the state or owning property. The Ku Klux Klan was well accepted and even the University football coach at the time was a member. But in 1926, Robert Robinson and Charles

Williams — both African American — enrolled at the University as scholarship student-athletes, becoming the first black athletes at the school and in Oregon. They also became the first black athletes in the state, possibly the first black full-time students at the University, and eventually, the first blacks to live in University housing — all to be forgotten in the latter part of the century.

Recovering the history

In 1993, Herman Brame, a 1968 graduate and former University track athlete, was looking through some old University archives — he has a

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University graduate and former track athlete Herman Brame discovered the first two black athletes and students from the University while searching through archives.

Roman Gokhman Emerald