

Today's crossword solution

S	P	I	C	E	B	B	S	H	O	P	E	N			
O	R	L	O	N	A	S	H	Y	S	A	L	E			
D	E	L	L	A	A	T	O	M	P	R	E	Z			
F	I	L	C	H	I	O	N	R	A	M					
T	A	C	I	T	U	R	N	S	W	E	D	E	N		
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U	S	S	R		E	A	R	N		D	E	N	T	S	

New directors to lead bookstore

The University Bookstore's Board of Directors elections included 31 candidates running for seven open spots

Jennifer Bear

Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

The power behind the campus' biggest bookseller is being passed on.

The 2003-04 University Bookstore Board of Directors have been chosen, ushering in a new body of leadership.

According to University Bookstore General Manager Jim Williams, this year's board of directors election was the most competitive in nearly 30 years. A total of 31 candidates ran for the board's seven open positions, and voting ended Wednesday with 269 ballots cast.

A number of ASUO-affiliated student leaders ran in the bookstore election, and some were candidates in the 2003-04 ASUO election but were not voted into office. Gabe Kjos, Mike Martell and Mike Sherman all ran earlier this year for positions on next year's ASUO Student Senate but lost the election, and they all ran for the sophomore position on the bookstore's board of directors. However, Sherman

gained sufficient voter approval to win the race.

Alexis Bishop also was elected to one of the two open sophomore positions on the board. Ryan Brady secured the graduate one-year position, beating his nearest competitor by 37 votes. Vanessa Bedford was elected to the freshman position, and current ASUO President Rachel Pilliod was elected to the student-at-large position. James Terborg ran uncontested for the faculty position, and E.K. MacCall was elected to the two-year graduate position.

While "board of directors" might seem like an abstract concept to harried students, the bookstore board actually makes many policy decisions that have an impact on the University community. This year's board expanded the bookstore's hours for later evening operation to adapt to changing customer needs,

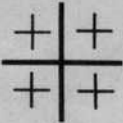
as a greater number of students are taking late classes, Williams said. He added another important policy change a previous board made was to discontinue the sale of tobacco at the bookstore.

Williams said the University bookstore is different from many college bookstores nationwide because it is an independent business and isn't owned by the University. He added that the board is responsible for making the big decisions in running the bookstore, and student perspective dominates on the board, as only students can be elected to be president or vice president, and student representatives make up more than half of the total board.

"It's very student focused," he said.

Contact the senior news reporter at jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com.

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Writing assignments include several stories and a writer's journal. Class enrollment is limited to twenty-two.

15:00-16:50 P.M.
June 23 - July 18
CRN 42044 Professor Henry Alley

DPS investigates eBay fraud

'Operation Bidder Beware,' a new law enforcement sweep of Internet scams, has led to numerous cases nationwide

Caron Alarab

Safety/Crime/Transportation Reporter

According to a report filed one week ago today, Department of Public Safety officers are presently investigating a complaint of fraud after a student sold an item on Internet auction Web site eBay and never received the agreed dollar amount. Details about the incident are presently being withheld as the case has yet to be closed, but DPS Associate Director Tom Hicks said there is a good possibility the culprit will not be caught.

"The biggest problem with online scams is tracking down the

suspect," he said.

Statewide statistics obtained by the office of Attorney General Hardy Myers indicate high school seniors and college students as the second highest target group when it comes to Internet auction scams. In an effort to take legal action on suspects in Oregon and across the United States, a new law enforcement sweep of Internet auction scams called "Operation Bidder Beware" has led to the filing of more than 55 criminal and civil cases nationwide. The sweep was coordinated by the Federal Trade Commission in conjunction with the 28 members of the National Association of Attorney Generals.

After filing court actions in Marion and Lane counties against two Willamette Valley Internet retailers early last week, Myers said the recent rise in scam complaints prompted the sweep.

"Our consumer protection office has experienced a 'spike' in Internet auction complaints in the last two years with that category jumping from No. 6 to 4 on the Top 10 Consumer Complaint List," he said. "Nationally, auction fraud is the single largest category of Internet-related complaints, and combating this large of a problem on the Internet can only be done by using a law enforcement team approach."

Both of the Oregonians taken to court — one in Salem, one in Eugene — sold computers and electronic items through Internet auction sites, but neither have admitted violation of law. At least 25 consumer complaints were filed against Brienne Wait of Eugene for selling computers and electronic equipment via Internet auctions and failing to deliver any goods or provide refunds.

After being investigated for civil and criminal violations by Justice investigators and Eugene Police Department officers, Wait opted to a sign civil agreement with the Attorney General's office in lieu of facing criminal charges. Under her agreement, she has 180 days to make refunds and must refrain from any Internet commerce until certain conditions are satisfied.

In light of the recent action taken on Oregon suspects, Attorney General's office spokeswoman Jan Margosian said students, as buyers, need to be particularly aware of the frequency of Internet auction scams. Margosian said students who sell high-ticket items on eBay, including computers and bicycles, are especially susceptible to a recent scam in which counterfeit checks are sent as payment and deposited. The bank then realizes later that the check is fraudulent and

Avoiding Internet fraud

Attorney General Hardy Myers advises consumers who want to reduce their risk of being victimized through Internet auction fraud to do the following:

- Know the auction site and find out what protection the site offers buyers. Don't assume all site rules are the same.
- Check out the seller before bidding and avoid those who can't be easily identified, especially those who try to lure buyers off the auction site with promises of a better deal.
- Beware of escrow or online payment services that are not well known. Check their Web sites and call their customer service lines, and if neither are found, don't use them.
- Don't provide personal financial information — such as credit card, bank account, Social Security or driver's license numbers — until the site checks out.
- Save all transaction information.
- Complain to the seller, buyer or site operator in the event of transaction problems. File a complaint with the Attorney General's office if all else fails.

SOURCE: Oregon Attorney General

takes legal action on the seller for depositing it.

"Because students aren't taking extra precautions in making these online transactions, they have become the second most targeted group for the crime," she said, adding that people age 50 and older are first.

In the event that Oregonians decide to purchase items from unfamiliar Internet auction sites, Margosian said students and other consumers should get in the habit of using the Attorney General's hotline for information.

"It'll save you money on the long run," she said.

Consumers who want more information on consumer protection and Internet auctions or who have already lost money to an Internet auction scam can call the Attorney General's Financial Fraud/Consumer Protection section toll-free hotline at (877) 877-9392.

Contact the reporter at caronalarab@dailyemerald.com.

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