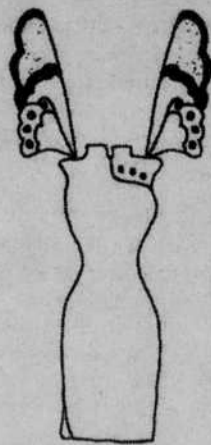


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Safe

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"I didn't think I was being too nice," she said. After talking about the film over coffee for an hour, the two walked back toward the student's residence hall. The man had asked to walk her all the way to her room, but the student found the request a little forward and stopped to say good-bye at Hamilton Complex instead of her own building. He then said he regretted not asking for her number over coffee and asked for her room number instead, which she denied him as well.

"Sometimes you feel you're being rude to people when you say no," she said. "But I just didn't feel comfortable giving him any more info than I already had."

Considering what happened next, the student said she is glad to have trusted her gut instinct.

A few days after meeting the fellow French film fan, the student received what she referred to as a creepy call at her residence hall room. The voice on the phone said her name with uncertainty and asked, "Do you remember me? We talked over coffee after the film festival."

The student was taken aback. Her eager coffee date had apparently looked up her campus number on the online directory and proceeded to call her, despite her refusal to give him the number.

"Um, oh sorry, wrong number," she said as she hung up the phone.

A little later, the man called again and asked for her middle name to see if he had the right person, so she made something up.

"I was a little freaked out at that point," she said. "But I figured he was just some creepy guy."

The next day, a resident assistant contacted the student and told her

to call the Department of Public Safety. After an initial attempt, the student reached an officer who told her he had found a suspicious person searching for her room in Hamilton Complex at 2 a.m. the night before.

Again using the online directory, the person — who is not a student — assumed the mailbox number was a room number and was looking for the room when he gave the officer his and the student's name. Officers then escorted the man off-campus and told him he would be cited for trespassing if he returned.

Considering the low number of similar incidents reported to DPS during the past few years, DPS Associate Director Tom Hicks said students who receive suspicious phone calls or think their safety has been threatened should call DPS for advice, protection or action.

After performing a background check on the man, DPS officers found he was on parole for various sex offenses and notified the student when DPS discovered he had attempted to call her more than once.

Significantly alarmed at that point, the student immediately removed all her information from the directory and changed her room phone number. DPS officers offered to temporarily relocate the student and her roommate to another room while their lock was changed. The locks were changed by the end of the day, however, and the roommates decided to stay where they were.

Because some people have been known to let random individuals into the residence halls, the student said she feels safe knowing posters with the man's description and information are still posted in the area.

"I think it has pretty much blown over. At least I hope so," she said.

"And the RAs were great — they went above and beyond."

Considering both the value and the danger of an online student directory, the student said it is a useful resource on which she will never post her personal information again.

"It's just too bad that sketchy people like this can make our campus seem unsafe, especially to women," she said.

Looking forward to this week's empowerment events — including the Women's Center's Take Back the Night march — the student encourages fellow females to always be aware of who they interact with, be selective when giving out personal information and know their comfort levels.

Sexual Assault Support Services community education coordinator Michelle Edwards said she couldn't agree more.

"This student really showed her knowledge of effective self-defense tools and flexed her assertiveness skills," Edwards said. "Having a sense of boundaries and keeping control on the situation is key here."

For students interested in how to handle similar challenges and encounters, Edwards recommends attending the free self-defense workshop at 4 p.m. on Wednesday in the EMU Walnut Room. She said the workshop will cover verbal and physical skills that are practical for any female.

"I don't think there's a woman on this earth that wouldn't one day benefit from these skills," she said.

For those who can't make it to the workshop, Edwards said SASS counselors are always available to help.

"We're a great resource for what to do when dealing with this kind of stuff," she said.

Contact the reporter at caronalarab@dailyemerald.com.

It's not English as usual this summer

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SARS

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fever or respiratory problems and notify school officials and health care providers immediately if symptoms occur. Students with symptoms are urged not to attend school.

Anne Mattson, director of nursing at the University Health Center, said the center is adhering strictly to the CDC guidelines. Because information concerning the SARS epidemic changes on a daily basis, health center officials continue to watch and monitor the situation, she added.

"Our role is to be advisory and informational for all members of the

"The only restriction that's taken place is that we ask students (from affected areas) to stay away from high-density areas."

Di Saunders
Oregon University System spokesman

University community who may have traveled to these areas," Mattson said.

Oregon University System

spokeswoman Di Saunders said the governing body has no plans to restrict incoming international students, but officials from OUS international programs did hold a meeting on Monday to discuss the issue. The results of that meeting were not available at press time.

"The only restriction that's taken place is that we ask students (from affected areas) to stay away from high-density areas," Saunders said.

SARS is a pneumonia-like disease that has affected more than 7,000 people worldwide and caused more than 500 deaths.

Contact the reporter at lindsaysauve@dailyemerald.com.

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