



Bank robbery, car chase close streets

One male was arrested after a morning bank robbery and a destructive, high-speed car chase through Eugene

Ali Shaughnessy
 Environment/Science/Technology Reporter

Two people led the Eugene Police Department on a high-speed car chase through Eugene neighborhoods on Monday morning, as police pursued a man accused of robbing the Washington Mutual branch at 1100 Willamette St. Police arrived at the bank one minute after the 10:27 a.m. dispatch call and proceeded to chase a silver minivan through Eugene, reaching speeds up to 50 mph.

EPD Sgt. Scott McKee said that while two people were inside the fleeing minivan, charges have been brought only against 36-year-old Shawn Jeffrey Connelly of California because police are not yet sure whether the other occupant, a woman, was involved

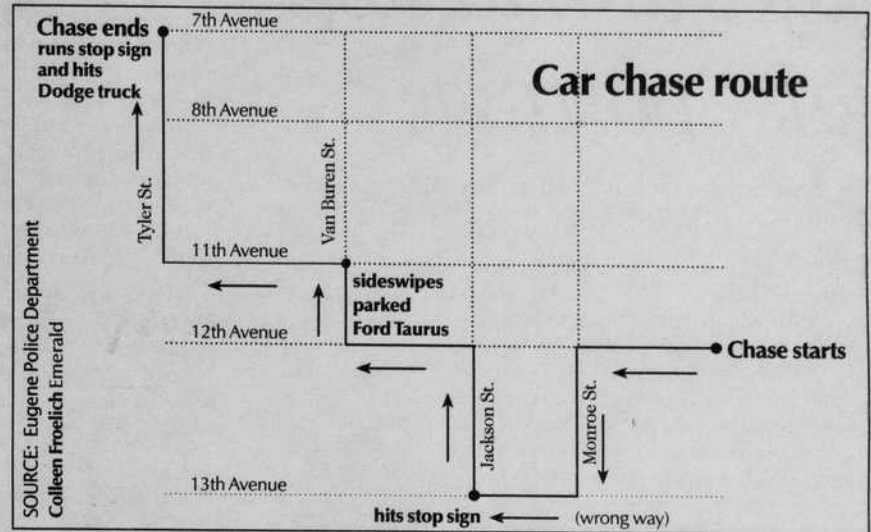
in the robbery. He added EPD is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to decide whether charges will be brought against her.

According to police reports, a man walked in the bank shortly before 10:27 a.m. and slid a note to a bank teller demanding money and implying he was armed with a gun. After walking out of the bank with an undisclosed amount of money, a witness found a police officer and pointed out the suspect's car. The police officer then called the robbery into dispatch and proceeded to chase the minivan.

"A witness who saw the bank robbery observed (Connelly) getting into a minivan and then contacted a police officer," McKee said.

After crashing through a stop sign, sideswiping a parked car and going the wrong way on East 13th Avenue, Connelly ran a stop sign at the intersection of West 7th Avenue and Tyler Street, going northbound, and crashed into an extended-cab truck that

Turn to **Robbery**, page 4



Lazy days of spring



Senior Barb Biechele rests in the glow of the afternoon sun by the Knight Library on Monday. "I wouldn't rather be any other place than out in the sun," she said. Adam Amato Emerald

County elections end today

Today is the last day to vote in county elections, which include school board seats

Jan Montry
 News Editor

Today is the last day registered voters can drop off their ballots for the Lane County elections. Ballots should be received by the Lane County Elections Office at 135 East Sixth Ave., or any of several drop boxes, no later than 8 p.m.

On the ballot for students living in the Eugene and Springfield area are five Lane Community College Board of Directors seats, two Lane Education Service District seats and two school board seats — one for the Eugene School District and one for the Springfield School District.

The LCC Board of Directors is in
 Turn to **Elections**, page 4

Student wins Dave Frohnmayer Award for commitment to community service

Nontraditional student Gabe Sitowski won one of the University's individual awards at Saturday's award luncheon

Lindsay Sauv 
 Family/Health/Education Reporter

The first few days on campus for older students returning to college can be an alienating experience. What they may not realize is that among the crowds of trendy, bronzed 19-year-olds, there is a man who is attempting to make nontraditional students' back-to-school experiences a little less threatening.

Gabe Sitowski, a University senior majoring in exercise and movement science and general science, works at the ASUO as a nontraditional student advocate, pushing for services that benefit older students and student parents. Sitowski was recently given the Dave Frohnmayer Award at the University awards luncheon on Saturday. The award honors a fifth-year senior who demonstrates exceptional community service.

According to the Office of Student Life, University individual award recipients are selected by faculty, staff and students from a broad range of offices, organizations and departments including University Housing, the Office of Greek Life and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The awards are handed out on the basis of academic achievements and participation in campus groups and activities. They recognize a variety of achievements, ranging from the Wilson Cup, which honors "willingness to challenge conventional thought," to the Jim Buch Award, given to a junior who helps build relationships with prospective or newly admitted students.



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Senior Gabe Sitowski works at the ASUO as a nontraditional student advocate. He will participate in the Teach for America program in Texas upon graduation.

Brenda Tuomi, the nontraditional program coordinator, said she was excited to hear that a nontraditional student received the award. "It's rare for a nontraditional student to receive this award," Tuomi said.

Turn to **Award**, page 4

Legislators seek to halt relaxation of FCC rules

Some members of Congress oppose changes that would ease media ownership restrictions

Jennifer Bear
 Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

The Federal Communications Commission is considering sweeping policy changes that would give large media companies the freedom to strengthen their ownership positions in the media industry, but many consumer advocates and members of Congress oppose the undoing of target regulations.

Two of the FCC's proposed rule changes in particular trouble consumer advocates: allowing media companies to own television stations that reach 45 percent of the
 Turn to **FCC**, page 12