

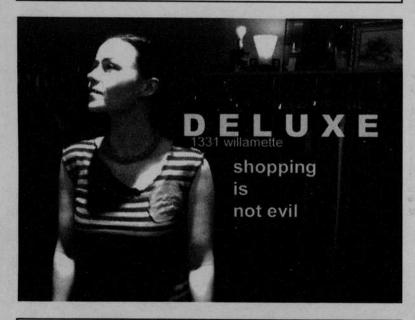
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**ALBANY** 

Novelties Games





SOUTH OF FERRY ST. BRIDGE

## Debt, job difficulties result from excessive gambling

Students' gambling habits can sometimes interfere with budgeting skills and work

By Chuck Slothower

Ah, gambling. The snap of shuffling cards, the gentle tap of poker chips, the thrill of beating the point spread. These sensations are no strangers to college students as gaming is becoming an increasingly popular pastime.

"Problem gambling is a serious issue on college campuses across the nation and doesn't often receive the attention it deserves."

> Dr. Jeffrey Marotta Problem gambling expert

A Harvard Medical School study found that 42 percent of college students gambled on sports.

Junior Brandon Gleich enjoys gambling occasionally. He plays Texas Hold'em, a popular form of poker, about twice a week.

For Gleich and most college-aged



Photo Illustration by Adam Amato Senior Photographer

A recent study reports that 3 percent of college students have a gambling problem, which can escalate from harmless activities such as poker.

gamblers, gambling is a harmless and fun activity. College students can, however, develop serious gambling

A University of Minnesota study found that about 3 percent of college students have a gambling problem. Students with a gambling problem bet money they can't afford to lose, gamble to win back money they've lost and let gambling interfere with work or school.

"Problem gambling is a serious issue on college campuses across the nation and doesn't often receive the attention it deserves," said Dr. Jeffrey Marotta, a problem gambling expert for the state of Oregon.

"It's not terribly unusual for a student to drop out of college because of a gambling problem or have academic difficulties."

Marotta said it can be more difficult to identify gambling problems among college students because they have easier access to credit than older adults and often don't have some of the obligations, such as a family or a full-time job, that can reveal a gambling problem.

"(College students) often don't get themselves in a very big hole," Marot-

College students play a variety of

Turn to GAMBLING, page 5B

## Singles hook up on weekends at Eugene's social hot spots

Although the definition of 'hooking up' remains uncertain, the unattached of Lane County still do it

> By Moriah Balingit Freelance Reporter

While couples celebrated their love on Feb. 14, some singles moped and cried about their lack of attachment. However, for the rest of the year, singles are free to celebrate one of the most coveted luxuries reserved mostly for bachelors and bachelorettes hooking up.

What exactly does "hooking up" mean? In recent years, even our Yaleeducated former president was unable to come up with a definition.

Guys want (hand jobs) to count. because it raises the numerical value of their sexual conquests," Wm. Steven Humphrey wrote in the Feb.

12 edition of The Portland Mercury.

When asked for his definition of a hookup, University graduate Chris Swartz said "sex."

For others, the term was a little more difficult to define.

(Hooking up is) anything more than kissing and when you're not in a committed relationship," freshman Ryan Sturges said.

For some, bars are a notorious spot to find a hookup. Swartz said sometimes he goes to bars with the explicit intention of hooking up.

"I don't justify it," he said. "I don't care ... It's all about fun."

Others said they feel differently about hook ups at bars.

"That's a bad idea," senior Jarod Courtney, a journalism major, said. "You should go out and chill with vour friends.

Spencer Miles said there is pressure for men to have random sexual

> 9-9 Mon-Sat 11-8 Sun

"I would say innately being a guy you feel that pressure," he said.

He added that if there is increased pressure, it comes from being around so many male friends. Freshman Dave Holzapfel shared

similar sentiments. "That pressure exists ... it's a social

norm to hook up with people."

Some, such as Sturges, choose to resist the pressure.

"I feel like if you're known to be refusing hookups people would wonder what's wrong with you, and it's such a common topic of conversation ... if you don't do it it's pretty noticeable."

Some students said they prefer to live through television hookups instead.

"Sex and the City' treats it like a game," Sturges said. "It's all the entertaining parts of hooking up without the emotional baggage.

Moriah Balingit is a freelance reporter



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