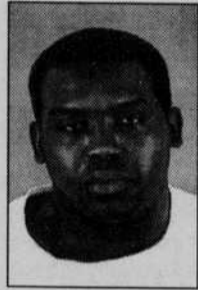


# EPD cautions public to avoid convicted check scammer

Allen Reed pleaded guilty to theft after he conned two students into cashing fraudulent checks for him

By Lisa Catto  
News Reporter

The Eugene Police Department is concerned that a convicted check scammer who targets University students will continue to prey on the campus community even though he has been banned from campus property.



**Allen Tyrone Reed**  
Banned from campus

Allen Tyrone Reed, 32, a 6-foot-tall, 240-pound black male, pleaded guilty Feb. 26 to theft in the second degree in Eugene Municipal Court for victimizing students, according to EPD. EPD officer Randy Ellis said Reed uses a scam to trick students into giving him money. Reed convinces students to deposit a false check into their accounts and has the students immediately withdraw the majority of the amount from their accounts to give back to him. The student and the bank do not realize the check is a fake until later.

"He could be victimizing more students in the future, that's the main thing we want to avoid," Ellis said. "Also what we want to avoid is someone else being able to come on to the campus and victimize students with this same type of scam."

Ellis said the first incident on campus occurred Jan. 30.

According to the incident report, Reed, who claimed to be a student, befriended sophomore David Seltzer while playing video games in the EMU and told Seltzer he could help him get a job.

Reed went to get a job application for a restaurant in the food court and gave it to Seltzer, falsely claiming he worked there and could put in a good word with the boss, Ellis said.

Reed gave the application to Seltzer and said he needed help depositing his paycheck. Reed claimed he didn't have identification with him, so he couldn't deposit the check, Ellis said.

The incident report stated that Reed asked Seltzer to deposit the \$400 check, which was already sealed into a deposit envelope, into his account. He then told Seltzer to only withdraw \$350 and to keep the remaining \$50 for his trouble.

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Randy Ellis  
EPD Officer

Ellis said the incident occurred at the U.S. Bank at 810 E. 13th Ave., which is right across the street from the West University police station.

Reed said he would meet Seltzer later in the day at the Lillis Business Complex to help him with the job application, Ellis said.

After depositing Reed's check, Seltzer felt Reed's request was strange, so he reported it to the bank, Ellis said. The bank pulled out the deposited envelope and found it contained an old bus ticket in place of a check.

Ellis said Seltzer immediately went to the police station to report what had happened and to inform the officers that he was planning to meet Reed later in the day.

A couple of officers escorted Seltzer to Lillis, Ellis said, and Reed eventually showed up. He was arrested for theft and later pleaded guilty to theft in the second degree in Eugene Municipal Court on Feb. 26.

"We have had similar scams before," Ellis said. "But they weren't where somebody was trying to pass themselves off as a student."

Reed also allegedly stole many items from University football players in the locker room at Autzen Stadium, including a player's credit card, Ellis said.

On Feb. 23, Reed used the credit

card at the University Bookstore to buy \$285 worth of clothing, Ellis said.

The police tracked down Reed to his hotel room and found several items that football players reported stolen, including clothing, textbooks, a cell phone and a backpack, Ellis said.

Reed was arrested but released one day later due to jail overcrowding, Ellis said.

"Even though he (is not supposed to come back on) University property," Ellis said, "... I think he will continue to do this."

He added that Reed's police record shows he allegedly victimized students at Portland State University as well.

Ellis emphasized many people prey on students in a similar manner, adding that he hopes students will be more careful about their belongings and who they try to help.

So far, EPD believes Reed has committed two check scams, stolen from three football players and possibly stolen a University identification card.

He added that Reed has also been spotted several times in the residence halls.

Director of Residence Life Sandy Schoonover said a couple of thefts in the H.P. Barnhart dining center have been "potentially attributed to him."

She added that if staff members see someone who looks suspicious in the residence halls, the staff member should immediately notify the Department of Public Safety.

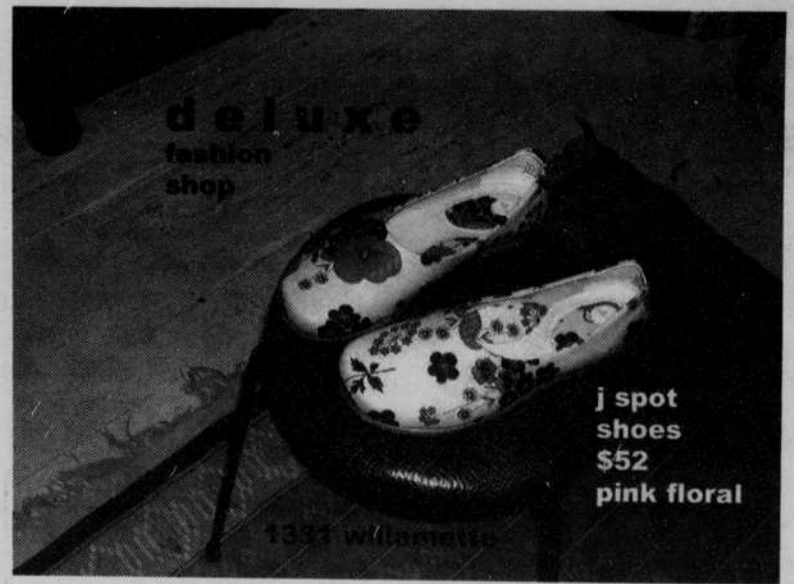
"Don't let people you don't know in the residence halls," Schoonover said. "You don't know their backgrounds."

She said every student must be active about their own safety and the safety of those around them.

Ellis echoed that concern, adding that students shouldn't leave their doors unlocked when going to the bathroom or to eat.

"We're trying to alert you to the problem with Mr. Reed," Ellis said. "Also just in the way students can be victimized in general without realizing they even are (victimized)."

Contact the crime/health/safety reporter at [lisacatto@dailyemerald.com](mailto:lisacatto@dailyemerald.com).



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