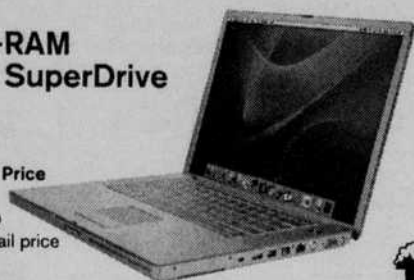




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IN BRIEF

E-mail stresses need for Social Security change

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The success of President Bush's push to remake Social Security depends on convincing the public that the system is "heading for an iceberg," according to a White House strategy e-mail that makes the case for cutting benefits promised for the future. Calling the effort "one of the most important conservative undertakings of modern times," Karl Rove deputy Peter Wehner says in the e-mail that "the Social Security battle is one we can win." Doing so would advance the idea of limited government and could transform the nation's political landscape, he said.

Gonzales promises non-torture policy

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Attorney General nominee Alberto Gonzales is promising senators that he will abide by treaties prohibiting the torture of prisoners, despite deriding the

restraints as relics in 2002. White House counsel Gonzales, in line to become the first Hispanic attorney general, had a hand in much of the White House's post-Sept. 11 terrorism policies as President Bush's top lawyer.

Suicide car bombings kill 25 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suicide attacker blew up an explosives-laden car Wednesday outside a police academy south of Baghdad during a graduation ceremony, killing 20 people. A second car bomber killed five Iraqi policemen, bringing the death toll to at least 90 so far this week in surging violence aimed at derailing this month's elections. Despite the mounting attacks and death toll, Iraq's interim leader again insisted the ballot would go ahead as planned.

World leaders open tsunami aid summit

JAKARTA, Indonesia — World leaders opened an emergency summit Thursday with a moment of

silence for the tens of thousands of tsunami victims, before focusing on the best way to rush nearly \$4 billion pledged worldwide to millions of survivors. U.S. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the gathering that the world was in a race against time to get food, medicine and supplies to the neediest.

Wintry storm faulted in at least four deaths

A huge storm spread a smear of ice and snow from the Rockies to the Northeast on Wednesday, snarling highway and airline traffic, causing record-low temperatures in the Midwest and snapping power lines serving tens of thousands of people. Weather-related traffic deaths included one each in Colorado, Oklahoma, Nebraska and South Dakota. The weather also may have been a contributing factor in a collision that killed another five in Oklahoma and two in Michigan.

— The Associated Press

Credit: Staying debt free should be a goal

Continued from page 1

suggested students have at least two credit cards and use them wisely "to get a good credit history going and establish good habits with credit card use."

Juggling credit and debt parallels managing classwork, Wagenknecht said. She said understanding a credit card agreement is like understanding a course syllabus and making credit card payments on time is like having good attendance. Credit cards are a problem when a student lacks maturity and an understanding of credit, but most students are mature and responsible, she said.

University senior Jamie Young said she has always handled her three credit cards responsibly, although she noted not all students are so accountable. She manages her debt by only using credit for larger expenses, such as holiday shopping and at the beginning of the school year. When tempted, she

tries to be logical, she said.

"I may want to use it," Young said, "But I don't because I know I'm living off financial aid and can't afford that."

Students who do spend more than they can pay off and end up with bad credit may encounter some leniency from credit bureaus if they're still young.

"If you were under 25 years of age, there is more room for creditors to understand that you were young and inexperienced and that you may mature and may be able to redeem yourself," Wagenknecht said.

She said the Fair Credit Reporting Act offers some additional rights useful to students. The law gives people the right to review their credit history. If students are turned down for credit of any kind, they have the right to ask for a written explanation. If there is something in the credit history that is unfair, people have the right to give their side of the story in their credit

report, Wagenknecht said.

Checking on credit history can help catch some potentially damaging mistakes. One in four credit reports contains errors serious enough for a person to be denied credit, a loan or even a job, according to a 2004 survey by the National Association of State Public Interest Research Groups. About 79 percent of credit reports contain other mistakes, according to the survey.

Annual free credit reports can be obtained at www.annualcreditreport.com. Wagenknecht said knowing one's credit history is important, but staying free from debt should be a student's ultimate goal.

"Being free from debt, all debt, is a wonderful place," Wagenknecht said. "For most people over 25 years of age, it should be an aspiration that we all strive for. However, it is not an aspiration that is sold and marketed to us."

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Webmail: University waiting on special hardware

Continued from page 1

problems in the classroom.

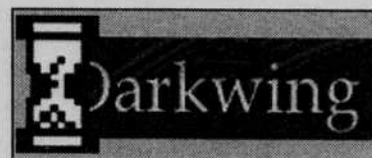
"I missed a meeting with students to set a time for the discussion hour," Landers said. "I could be missing more but I don't know because I can't see new e-mails. Some of my friends are teaching courses and it's a problem because they can't talk to their students at all."

The slow-down has been a common complaint among graduate students, EMU computer lab assistant Bryan Kreitlow said. Kreitlow also mentioned that users who are still accessing their University mail through the old Webmail system, located at webmail.uoregon.edu, are receiving messages like "maximum number of users reached" and cannot log in.

"We have been getting tons of complaints," Kreitlow said. "We've been saying (the University) is figuring it out since it's the first week. We don't know how true that is." Albrich said for Darkwing Webmail users the wait will only be a couple more days. The server's upgrade is centered around a new high-speed Network Attached Storage system, or NAS, that will store user accounts and data on these new servers, Albrich said.

However, the high cost of these NAS servers requires a special bid from the University to the State of Oregon's Justice Department, which "has not yet approved the necessary hardware purchase," Albrich said.

When the University needs to purchase more than \$50,000 in hardware, Albrich said, it is a long process in which many hardware vendors make bids. The University must justify a bid to the Justice Department if a company's offer is not the lowest bid but offers a superior product, which can make the process even longer.



TEMPORARY FIXES FOR DARKWING WEBMAIL USERS:

- Users may want to switch to an e-mail program like Microsoft Outlook, Mozilla Thunderbird (www.mozilla.org) or Mac OS X's built-in mail application. The drawback is that without a laptop, users cannot access e-mail on campus without reverting to Webmail.

- Another option is to activate mail forwarding to other accounts such as Hotmail or Yahoo! Mail. When mail forwarding is activated on the Microcomputer Services site, mail sent to your University account will automatically go to the other account.

For the instructions on both of these options, visit the University's Microcomputer Services Web site at micro.uoregon.edu.

"In the meantime, we have built a temporary high-speed storage system

which has some, but not all, of the performance improvements of the final solution," Albrich said. "Darkwing users will only see a performance improvement after they change their e-mail program settings."

The change involves switching the server address Darkwing users have inputted into their e-mail programs, like Microsoft Outlook, Eudora or Mozilla Thunderbird, to access e-mail instead of using Webmail. The process is detailed at micro.uoregon.edu/email/upgrade, Albrich said. Albrich recommends that e-mail users who use an e-mail program choose Thunderbird

(www.mozilla.org) if on a Windows machine and Apple's built-in Mail application if using Mac OS X. As for when these new servers will be implemented, Albrich cannot give a concrete answer.

"I'd say both Darkwing and Gladstone users will see a very noticeable improvement prior to the next academic year, with smaller but critical improvements in the short term," Albrich said.

Until then, graduate students will suffer in an e-mail limbo.

"Yesterday it was 45 minutes (until I could check e-mail)," Vinit Sirichit, a graduate student studying economics, said. "It's a little bit better from yesterday. I missed a class because we changed the time through an e-mail notification."

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