

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

An independent newspaper

www.dailyemerald.com

SINCE 1900 | Volume 106, Issue 81 | Tuesday, January 18, 2005

Firearms on campus

PART 1 OF 2

Today: Concealed handgun advocates challenge the OUS policy
Wednesday: Seeking solutions to the handgun dilemma

Revealing concealed handguns



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE HICKEY AND BRET FURTWANGLER

Two out of 50 people over 21 in Lane County will have a license to carry a concealed handgun.

Controversy continues over the Oregon University System's policy on concealed firearms

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

One year ago this month, University graduate student and Concealed Handgun License holder Brian Stubbs challenged an Oregon University System policy forbidding him from carrying his gun on campus.

A federal judge dismissed Stubbs' suit against the Oregon State Board of Higher Education in June, but key players on both sides of this ongoing controversy — whether to allow students, faculty and visitors with licenses to carry concealed firearms to bring them onto campus — agree the matter has yet to be resolved.

Source of contention

Statewide, 98,537 people had a CHL as of December 2004, according to Law Enforcement Data System information. In Lane County, 9,566 or about 4.1 percent of people over 21 held licenses, compared with 9,921 (about 3.2 percent) in Washington County and 11,673 (about 2.4 percent) in Multnomah County. Some of these holders think the OUS is violating state law by forbidding concealed weapons on university campuses for license holders. Once

people obtain licenses in Oregon, the Oregon Revised Statutes allow them to carry their concealed handguns in "public buildings," including hospitals, public and private schools and universities, with the exception of courtrooms. Some private establishments, such as bars and movies theaters, may post signs banning concealed weapons.

However, the Oregon Administrative Rules for Oregon universities — regulations created by the board of higher education to interpret Oregon statutes — bar CHL holders from carrying concealed guns at OUS facilities, such as in University buildings.

Obtaining a license

Oregonians interested in carrying a concealed handgun must obtain a permit from their local sheriff's office after meeting eligibility requirements and completing a firearms safety course.

However, laws governing concealed handgun licenses vary on a state-to-state basis. About 35 states, including Oregon, have "shall issue" laws allowing anyone who applies and meets state requirements to carry a concealed handgun, according to Packing.org. Several other states, such as California, have limited laws

allowing law enforcement to determine whether to issue a license to a specific applicant. Concealed weapons are prohibited in five states, including Illinois and Wisconsin.

Special Deputy Paige Payne, who works in the Washington County Sheriff's Office Concealed Handgun License Unit, said law enforcement agencies around the state share information about concealed carry licenses.

If a CHL holder is accused of committing a crime or has a restraining order placed against him or her, the local sheriff's office that issued the person's CHL will be notified, and the license can be revoked.

Payne said her agency revokes licenses "quite often."

The Baron's Den employee and firearm safety instructor Raye Gunter, who said he has put more people through the Lane County Sheriff's Office for CHLs than any other instructor in the state, said he's seen the number of people interested in having a concealed handgun rise as more people come of age and make a decision to carry for self-defense.

Gunter — who also teaches a basic handgun safety class at Lane

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WAYS TO CARRY A HANDGUN

People with Concealed Handgun Licenses can choose to conceal their weapons in a variety of ways, depending on the size of the weapon, the clothing appropriate for the climate and the person's body type.



• Inside the waistband
One of the most common and most popular styles of concealed carry, IWB holsters allow the bulk of the weapon to fit inside the pants so that only the gun's butt needs to be covered.



• Outside the waistband
Few OWB holsters will be suitable for concealed carry because they create a bump in the holder's clothing. OWB holsters work well with smaller firearms for people who have trouble carrying IWB.



• Ankle holsters
These holsters provide another option, but they may require time to get used to and only work with smaller guns. Pocket holsters are a similar option.

Source: www.gunnersalley.com

BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHIC ARTIST

Downtown the target of loan programs

To encourage local growth, a committee allocates funds to beginning businesses at city's 'core'

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

City officials are hoping to turn downtown Eugene into an active, inviting and economically strong area, and, if they invest the city's money wisely, they say they may soon have just that.

The Business Loan Program and the Downtown Revitalization Loan Program are two city programs designed to give the Eugene economy an edge in tough economic times and promote business growth within the city's core, City Loan Analyst Denny Braud said.

"We're trying to impact how they develop and where they develop," Braud said of the programs' effects on area businesses.

Braud, who oversees the two programs, said the success rate of the city loan programs has been high and is only expected to increase, "despite some initial failings."

The Dive Bar & Grill was one of those initial LOANS, page 12

GETTING A LICENSE

Requirements to obtain a Concealed Handgun License in Oregon:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be at least 21 years old
- Live in the county where the application is made
- Have no outstanding warrants for arrest
- Have passed a firearm safety class
- Submit to fingerprinting and photographing by sheriff

People are ineligible for licenses if they have:

- Been found guilty of a felony
- Been convicted of a misdemeanor within the past four years
- Been found mentally ill

Licenses cost \$65 and must be renewed every four years for \$50.

Community at center of MLK Jr. celebration

Keynote speaker Bebe Moore Campbell addressed the current status of racism and diversity

BY KARA HANSEN
NEWS REPORTER

At least 600 people gathered to bridge the gap between races and to build a connection between students and the Eugene community at the 19th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration at the EMU Ballroom Monday night.

Musical performances, awards announcements and greetings from the University's Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity Greg Vincent and Mayor Kitty Piercy led to the event's keynote address, given by author and journalist Bebe Moore Campbell under the theme "Celebrating Diversity Through Shared Humanity."

In her speech, Campbell said although times have changed and equality is stronger than in years past, challenges still exist for minorities in the United States that "plague the black community in disproportionate numbers."

"If white children were failing in schools the way some black and brown children are," Campbell said, "America would not allow it."

But attending college has helped open up opportunities for minority communities, she said.

There are 305 black students at the University out of a total enrollment of 19,450, or 1.57 percent, according to the Registrar's Office.

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