

# Task force for nontraditional students is under way

Kristin Mihalko  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

A task force for non-traditional students is in the process of being formed at the University to help serve the needs of students who are 24 years of age and older.

"It is necessary for non-traditional students to know that there is a body at the ASUO set up just to represent their needs," said David Kellett, head of the new task force.

Kellett, who is also the non-traditional student coordinator for ASUO, has restarted a defunct task force to make non-traditional students a more active group on campus.

"The University community doesn't

have activities that include non-traditional students," Kellett said. "They're all set up for students 18 to 24 years of age."

Kellett said that while there are no functions that directly cater to non-traditional students, students over the age of 24 make up one-third of the enrollment at the University.

"It's easy to feel isolated because we feel like a minority, but the reality is that we're not; we're 5,180 strong," said Valerie Lewis, co-chairwoman of the Returning Student Association.

The Returning Student Association acts as a support group that, through networking, demonstrates adult learners are not alone in the struggle to get through

school, Lewis said. She also said the Returning Student Association will have a representative sitting on the task force after it is formed.

"In order for a task force to work, it is necessary that every organization is represented, not just the Returning Student Association," Lewis said. "There are non-traditional students belonging to the Black Student Union, the Asian/Pacific American Student Union, the Native American Student Union, and they all must be represented."

There are now six representatives on the task force, but according to Kellett, this is only tentative until more non-traditional students become involved.

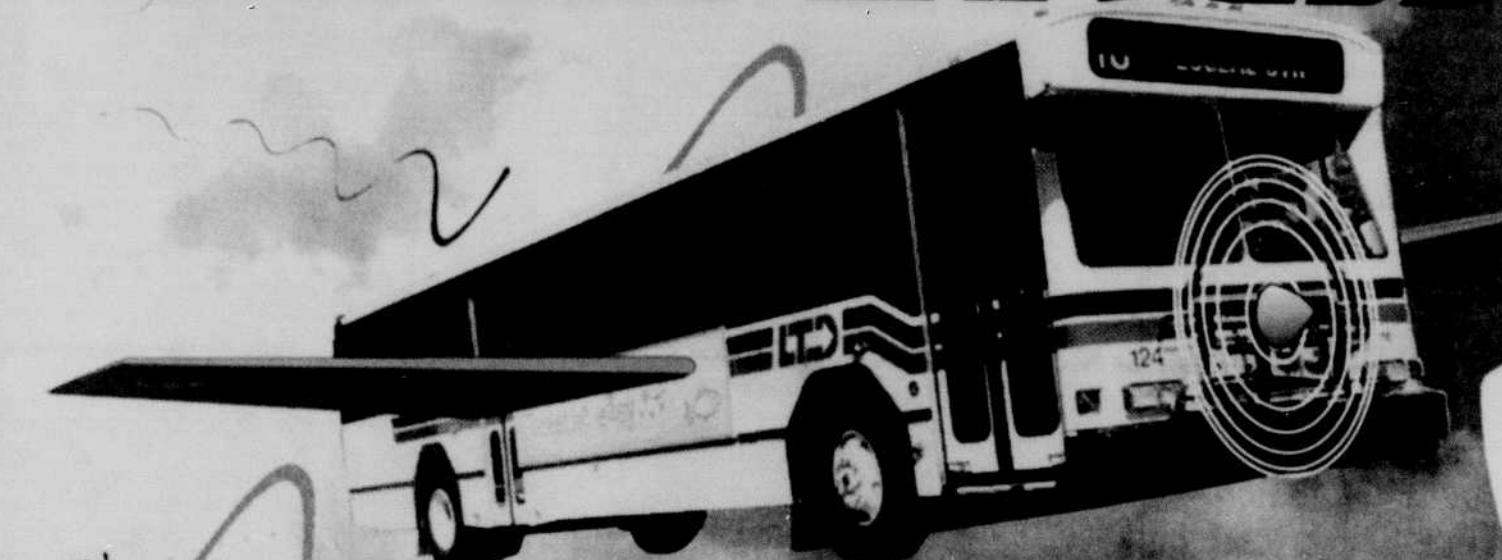
Although a great deal of interest was expressed in the task force during the first meeting, a campaign has been started to get even more people involved, he said.

"Hopefully by next month, with more people, we will be able to set up more structure and rules to the task force," he said.

Kellett stressed the need for non-traditional student's representation in student government, pointing out how silence is hurting the large group of students.

"Things that active people do affect non-traditional students," he said. "And the problems of (people) 18 to 24 years old are completely different than those of students with families and disabilities."

## ADVENTURES ON THE AIRPORT EXPRESS



### Say good-bye to cab fare and long term parking fees with LTD YOUR PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE

Catch a free lift to the airport via the Eugene station. Buses are free with your UO student I.D. So you can take flights anywhere, anytime—all term long. Buses fly off campus every ten minutes, with downtown departures to the airport three times a day.

LTD buses take off from the Eugene Station (Section G) and head for the airport at 5:57 am, 7:30 am & 2:30 pm weekdays only.



Way to Go!

687-5555 (VOICE) or 687-4265 (TTY)

## Measure 8 ends pension contributions



SALEM (AP) — Measure 8 would overrule any rights of state employees

to have the state make their pension plan payments, Oregon Attorney General Ted Kulongoski said Monday.

Employee unions have contended the proposal would illegally violate contract rights.

Kulongoski, taking note of the state's 1979 pledge to make the workers' 6 percent pension contribution for them, said that the payment currently is a "contract right for all state employees."

But he also said that right would be eliminated by Measure 8, which ends employer-paid pension contributions for state employees and forces them to pay 6 percent of their salary into their pension plan.

The requirement would take effect Jan. 1 for state employees not represented by unions and when contracts expire for those who are.

With fewer than 900 votes separating supporters and opponents, the measure is headed for a recount.

Dawn Morgan, president of the Oregon Public Employees Union, said Kulongoski's opinion left unanswered questions.

"It don't think it changes our mind much," she said. "It's a nice firm 'maybe' in all the tough spots. It encourages people to litigate it to try to sort it out."

Morgan said the union intends to sue over the measure once it is certified as having passed. The OPEU represents about 20,000 state employees.

The Public Employees Retirement System, which covers state employees and most local government workers, asked the attorney general office for the opinion.

The opinion dealt only with effects on state employees, however, because the attorney general has no jurisdiction over local workers. It said the state's agreement to pay the employees' retirement contributions "is only a current promise."

"We do not believe that (state law) authorizes public employers to make irrevocable promises to pay their employees' retirement contributions indefinitely because such an action would deprive the Legislature of its control over the state's budget," said Kulongoski.

He said the measure will eliminate not only existing contract rights "but also the employer's authority to make such payments after Jan. 1, 1995."