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cation and number of passengers for each run.

On weekends, an average of 60 to 70 students use DDS. Last year, 3,200 people were given a lift, and this year that number is likely to increase.

Brandon Smith, the director for DDS, believes his staff has the necessary gumption for the job.

"It definitely takes a different kind of person to work for DDS," Smith said. "There is no typical night with this job. I've seen everything from riots to gun-fights."

"We actually have gas masks, fire extinguishers and first aid kits in the vehicles just in case. You never know what could happen."

One of Smith's most memo-

orable experiences with this program happened two years ago when the van he was driving interrupted a riot in progress. Police officers had arrived at the scene and tear gas had just been thrown into the crowd.

"Twenty people had piled into the vehicle, more than there ever should have been," Smith said. "It was very crowded and the van was filling with tear gas. We drove about two blocks and went around the corner before everyone cleared out."

For Ansell, last Halloween is a night he will never forget.

"That night we picked up a guy in a costume who said he wanted to go back to the bars. So he opened the door, jumped out and rolled out into the middle of the street. I was driving at about 25 to

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Brandon Smith
DDS director

30 miles per hour at the time. The guy was okay, though. He got right back up, picked up his mask and ran back to the bar."

Karlo Kitanovski is a regular passenger with DDS. An "A" student at the University, Kitanovski has been known use this transportation service as many as five times a week.

Because of his regular presence, Kitanovski is known as the "drunk of the term" by the DDS staff.

"This is the kind of person I am," Kitanovski said. "Drinking portrays my image. My goal is to be as crazy as possible, be the most fucked up physics major there is and kick all the nerds' asses at the same time."

Kitanovski is proud of his lifestyle. Being able to get good grades and party at the same time is something, he believes, not everyone is capable of accomplishing.

"I'm living proof that you can do more with less," Kitanovski said. "Even though I smoke and drink, I get better grades than anyone else. This pisses off some people, but I don't care. If they can't hack it, that's not my prob-

lem."

People who work for DDS are paid. Volunteers aren't accepted because paid employees have been known to be more reliable.

"Volunteers generally don't have a real strong tie to the job," Smith said.

"There could be a situation where somebody decides not to come in for a shift, then that means we are short for the night, which means we are short staffed, which means that we could leave somebody at the bar and then we haven't fulfilled our societal obligation. I don't want that to happen. So if you work for me, you get paid. I don't hear too many people complain about that."

For more information about DDS or to set up a ride, call the DDS office at 346-RIDE.

Legislature

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more high school graduates in the state, Bailey said. Studies show graduates tend to stay in the state where they received their education, which contributes to the economy, he said.

"Both the University and the legislature wanted to improve the higher education system so it serves the students and the state better," Bailey said.

This includes a probable tuition freeze for in-state undergraduate students. Both the Senate and Gov. John Kitzhaber have included a freeze in their budgets, but they still have differences.

Following years of steady decline in funding, Oregon's higher education officials are calling for increased financing to make up for the years of loss. This session, the legislature will focus on the new funding model of the Oregon University System that would allow each school to keep all its own tuition and fees.

The current system, which will probably be obsolete after this legislative session, pools all the schools' tuition and fees and redistributes it with a complex mathematical equation.

"In higher education, we know that there are some changes being made in finance. We want to make sure we don't see a tuition increase for students."

Susan Castillo
State Senator

While the new funding system seems to have bipartisan support, Gov. Kitzhaber's budget allots only a \$73 million increase in funding for higher education. The Republican Senate has budgeted a \$100 million increase over last session's allotment to higher education.

"That has led us to believe state government is substantially supporting the proposed budget model," Bailey said.

In a letter to Tom Imeson, Chair of the State Board of Higher Education, Gov. Kitzhaber said he believes "the infusion of new resources is sufficient to implement

the major components of the new budget model."

Local State Sen. Susan Castillo said she will support the OUS budget change.

"In higher education, we know that there are some changes being made in finance," she said. "We want to make sure we don't see a tuition increase for students."

It will take months to agree on the details, but Bailey said the University of Oregon is mostly interested in ensuring the legislature is committed to financially supporting in-state students.

"We have not petitioned the legislature for a freeze in non-resident tuition," he said.

Bailey will visit the capitol two to three times a week, he said. His priorities are set by University President Dave Frohnmaier, but the University of Oregon's administration also consults the ASUO and other individuals.

The ASUO also wants a tuition freeze, passage of the OUS funding model and an increase in higher education funding, according to ASUO State Affairs Coordinator Matt Swanson.

"We can't continue to improve our quality [of education] because our budget is always being slashed," Swanson said. "We feel that in order to implement some of the changes in the Oregon University System, we really need to see the budget increased."

In addition, the ASUO and Oregon Student Association are seeking extra funding for student-parents to partially subsidize child care near the home of the students, the Need Grant budget, community colleges and Oregon Health Sciences University.

The process of increasing the funding will be a long one because of the new members of congress, OSA Legislative Director Kellie Shoemaker said.

"New membership means you need to spend time educating people," she said.

Ultimately, higher education needs to be funded at a higher level because of the money that has been taken away over the years, Bailey said. Many programs have been cut, and more are underfunded.

"If they adopt this, we will be more stable" than a year ago, he said.

The University of Oregon will host a lobby in Salem on Feb. 24, Bailey said, but the details are not yet final.

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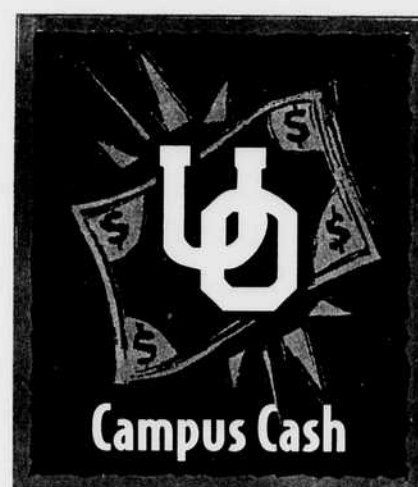
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