

Choir

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when Silva realized what he was looking for didn't exist, he and Hollens decided to start their own group.

Silva, a junior music technology major, said the group offers an accurate picture of a cappella singing while serving musical and entertainment functions.

The group was one of six quarter-finalists from the Western region at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella competition. Inspired by the other groups they heard at the competition, the members upped their singing intensity and focus, and increased their number of gigs to at least one per week.

"No matter how I feel, whenever I go to rehearsal, I end up being very glad I'm in the group," said Jason Johnson, who sings tenor I and II.

Johnson said the group's music selections range from gospel and classical to bebop. Johnson said every song takes experimentation, along with trial and error.

Johnson, a junior music education major, said the challenge of singing a cappella is that it's easy to

go out of tune without backup instruments. He said another obstacle in singing a cappella is to not take obvious breaths.

"It can be wearing on your voice," Johnson said.

Peter Vomocil, who sings bass II, said that because they sing a cappella, they often have to create in-

“It just sounds good, and it's all natural. There's nothing helping them. It's all their voices. This was officially the highlight of my day

Joanna Chan
sophomore
sociology major

struments with their voices.

"We have to back ourselves up vocally," Vomocil said. "For some people it's natural."

Silva said he and Tyler Boeh offer the group vocal percussion, a skill that involves a lot of air and practice.

"Vocal percussion uses parts of

the mouth, lips and nose all together in ways that you don't usually use to sing," Silva said.

Vomocil, who has been singing since second grade, said for him, the group is not only a hobby but something he loves that's outside of his daily routine.

"We do what we like to sing," said Vomocil, a junior theater arts major. "We are self-motivated, self-taught and self-directed, and that gives us flexibility to do what we want."

Vomocil also stressed the fact that all the members, despite their diverse interests, are joined by a passion and love for music.

"There is so much individuality in the group," Vomocil said. "Everyone brings their own strengths to the group. We may not have necessarily all crossed paths without the group."

Hollens said many of the members of the group have background talent from other choirs, such as the University Gospel Choir and Chamber Choir, along with training from private voice lessons.

"On the Rocks" will be singing at 3:45 p.m. every Wednesday spring term in the EMU Amphitheater. More information about fall term auditions is available at www.uoontherocks.com.

Gun

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Principal Jane Harrison then entered the student's classroom with another teacher and quietly removed him from class. They proceeded to the office, where the gun and a loaded clip were discovered in the student's backpack.

"The kid was clearly terrified," Harrison said. "He wasn't very happy about me going through his backpack."

Police learned that the gun belonged to the boy's father and was stored in a locked cabinet. The boy unlocked the cabinet using a key removed from its hidden location, police said.

Harrison said she was impressed with the manner in which police calmly handled the situation.

Students said they were shocked at Wednesday's incident.

"I knew him, and I didn't think he was like that," said Michael Blankenbeckley, a Kelly Middle School student. "I just hope it nev-

er happens again."

Kelly Middle School is located at 850 Howard Ave. in North Eugene.

The student taken into custody transferred to the school in January, just missing a week-long safety program and non-violence education program held by the school in December, Harrison said.

Harrison stressed that today's incident is a prime example of just how effective awareness and education programs can be.

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