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SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

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Residence hall gun scare draws Eugene police

■ EPD officers, arriving armed with assault rifles, discover the weapon in question is a BB gun

By Leon Tovey
 Oregon Daily Emerald

A student loading a BB gun in his residence hall room caused the Eugene Police Department to evacuate the Hamilton and Walton residence hall complexes Friday afternoon — and caused rumors that something more severe had happened.

Shortly after 2 p.m., a student reported seeing another student loading a weapon in a Robbins Hall room, EPD spokeswoman Pam Alejandre said. Officers armed with assault rifles responded to the report and immediately closed Agate Street between 13th and 15th avenues, and

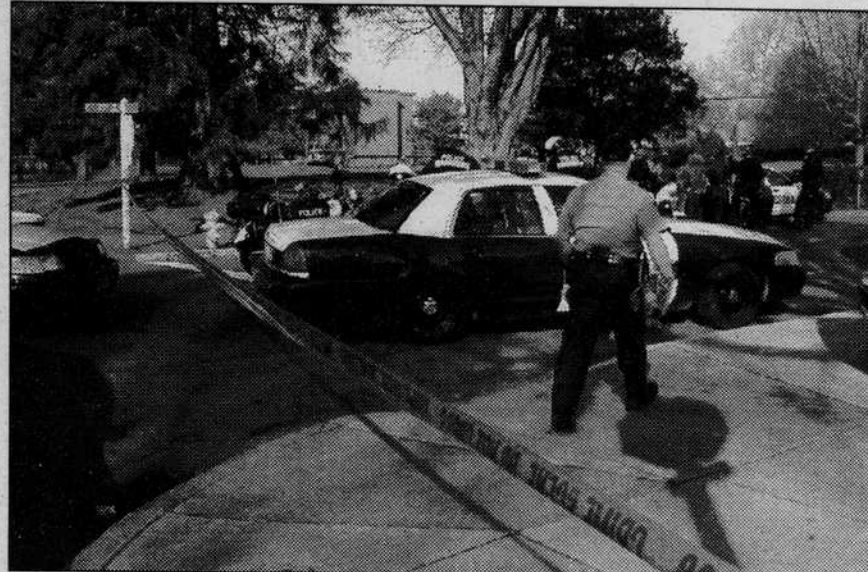
evacuated Hamilton Complex and part of Walton Complex.

Eugene police did not file charges, but Gaye Vandermyrn, associate director of communications, said the Student Conduct Committee and University housing officials plan to address the issue of what the student was doing with a BB gun in his room — a violation of the Student Conduct Code and housing regulations.

Hundreds of students congregated in the courtyard behind Carson Hall, and rumors of an armed student with hostages soon circulated around campus.

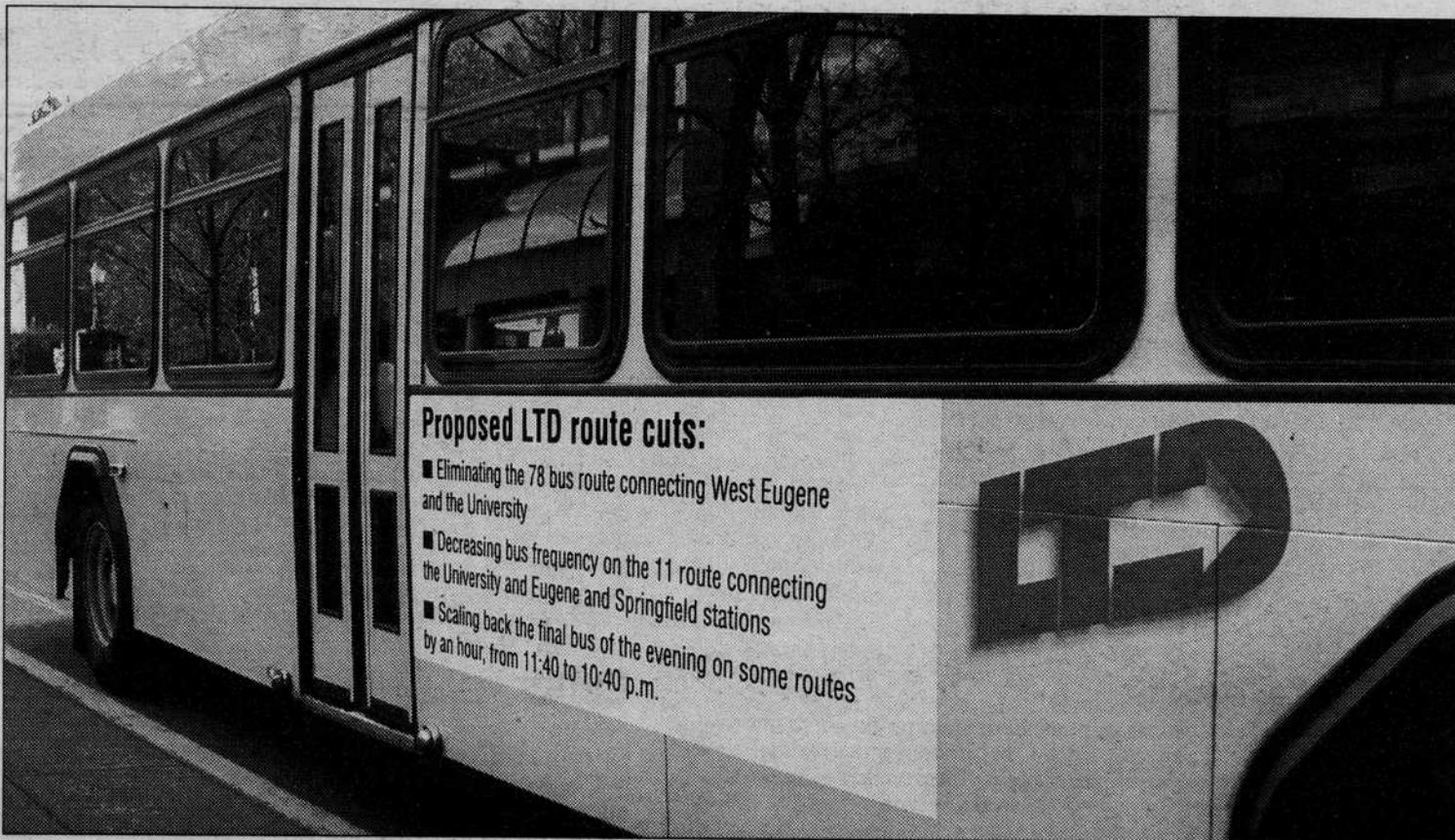
"The cops said to us that there was a hostage situation and we had to get out," University student Nick Taylor said. Taylor, who is a resident in Bean

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Eugene police cordon off 15th Avenue at Agate Street on Friday afternoon in response to a report that a student was loading a weapon in the nearby Hamilton Complex.

Kara Cogswell Emerald



Source: LTD spokesman Andy Vobora
 Photo illustration by Jonathan House and Russell Weiler Emerald

This week's election will pit Pilliod vs. Ritchie

■ Voter turnout did not reach ASUO's goal, but was better than last year's showing

By Danielle Gillespie
 Oregon Daily Emerald

ASUO Executive candidates Rachel Pilliod and Ben Buzbee will face off against Sean Ritchie and Jason Babkes after the two tickets won Friday's primary election.

Pilliod and Buzbee took 541 votes, and Ritchie and Babkes nabbed 403, but none of them were among the candidates eagerly waiting outside the ASUO office for results to be posted Friday night. Pilliod said she and Buzbee did not attend the ASUO posting because they wanted to be respectful of the other candidates.

"We are very pleased with the results and excited with next week's elections and greater voter turnout," Pilliod said.

Babkes was at a basketball game when he heard the news of his chance to advance to the general election, which starts Wednesday and runs through Friday.

"I am happy that we won, but there is still a lot of work ahead of us," he said.

Haben Woldu and Oscar Arana placed third with 385 votes, missing second place and a chance to advance by only 18 votes.

As for the candidates waiting outside the ASUO office, many went home visibly disappointed from the end results.

"I'm not shocked. It was the two candidates that I expected to win going into the last day of election," presidential candidate Eric Bailey said. "I am glad

LTD considers cuts to popular University routes

■ In the face of an economic downturn, LTD looks at cutting frequency on some routes while eliminating others altogether

By Brook Reinhard
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Lane Transit District will reduce its budget by \$1 million next year, which will likely change two popular student routes and decrease hours for late-running buses.

LTD is holding an open house Feb. 28 for public input, and their board will make a final decision March 20.

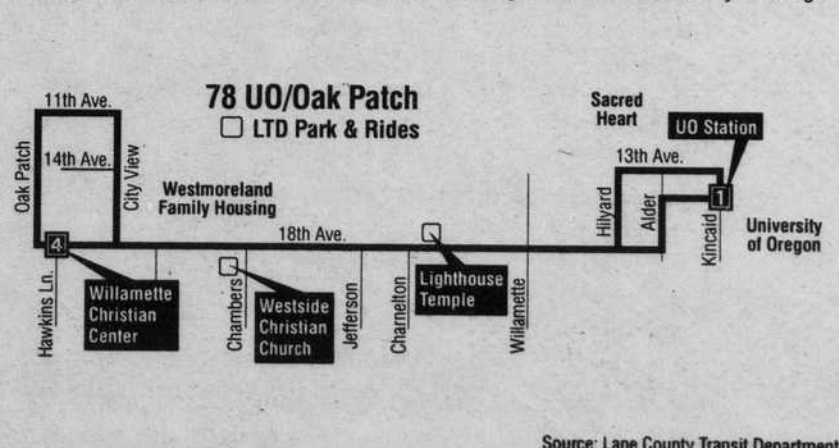
Ridership is growing on LTD buses, but the economic downturn has decreased payroll tax revenue, which supplies LTD with a large portion of its income, and left the service with a \$2.5 million deficit.

LTD spokesman Andy Vobora said the cuts are far-reaching enough to eliminate the entire 78 route, which connects the University to the West Eugene neighborhood — and at least 380 students who live at the University's

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Bus 78 may go

Budgetary measures may cause the elimination of route 78, which provides a direct connection to the University for at least 380 University students living in Westmoreland Family Housing



Source: Lane County Transit Department

Russell Weiler Emerald

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