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Campus Health Action on Tobacco member Amber Peterson demonstrates a what a human lung would look like if a person smoked a pack a day for 20 years in front of the EMU on Wednesday. Danielle Hickey Emerald

## SB 786 considers gender identity

A state senate bill introduced in March would outlaw sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination if approved

Aimee Rudin  
City/State Politics Reporter

Oregon law currently protects against discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin.

There is no law, however, saying individuals cannot be discriminated against based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Senate Bill 786 would change this.

Sen. Kate Brown, D-Portland, introduced SB 786 in early March. It is a nondiscrimination bill in employment, housing, public accommodation, public assistance and education. The bill would protect the basic rights of Oregonians regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and would authorize enforcement of prohibition through civil action for actual and punitive damages.

According to the Oregon Statewide Student Equal Rights Alliance, a person can currently be "legally fired, denied housing or made to endure daily harassment just because of their sexual orientation or gender identity." Oregon is the only state on the West Coast that provides no protection against any of these practices.

This is not the first attempt to pass legislation guarding against discrimination based on sexuality. According to Basic Rights Oregon, "nondiscrimination legislation has been sponsored nearly every session since the 1970s, but this is the first year it will include gender identity as well as sexual orientation."

Austin Shaw-Phillips, a board member

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## Lighting up the Career Fair

Several groups gathered during Wednesday's Career Fair to give information about the Career Center's affiliation with Philip Morris

Aaron Shakra  
Pulse Reporter

As job-seeking students arrived for Wednesday's Career Fair, a different group gathered near the stairwell leading to the EMU Ballroom. Their goal: to alert students to the business ties between the University's Career Center and Philip Morris, one of the companies exhibiting at the fair.

Protest organizer Kelly Huckestein said the group of students weren't affiliated with any specific organization. The group handed out materials attacking "big tobacco" and accusing Philip Morris of shady business practices concerning worker exploitation and environmental degradation.

"We are here to show that Philip Morris is a

partner with the Career Center and using it to hide their dirty business practices," she said. "They are just plain disgusting."

Career Center Director Larry Smith said Philip Morris, which manufactures Marlboro cigarettes, has "gold status" at the Career Center, and that any employer meeting the qualification is able to gain this status by paying a \$3,000 fee. Smith said while the students' right to protest is important, it is not the Career Center's responsibility to make moral judgments.

"They're a legal employer, and they meet the legal criteria. It's up to us to make our individual judgments," he said.

University student Tim Johnson said he hoped to make students aware of their choice to work for ethical, environmentally sound and socially responsible corporations. He said the group singled out Philip Morris because their business practices were "particularly nefarious."

A spokeswoman at the Philip Morris booth

declined to comment. Among the materials available at the booth were pamphlets for a youth smoking prevention program.

Later in the day, the protest group held three screenings of the film "Making a Killing: Philip Morris, Kraft and Global Tobacco Addiction," which claims the company has conspired to hook children on tobacco and keep governments from protecting public health.

Outside the EMU, a table was set up showing the effects of long-term nicotine exposure to the lungs. The table was affiliated with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the Campus Health Action on Tobacco (CHAT). CHAT member Amber Peterson stressed that the table was not meant to be a protest but rather an educational booth.

"The students knew that Philip Morris was going to be here today," Peterson said. "It's good counter-advertisement."

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## All-female a capella group hits low notes on campus

Divisi, the University's female a capella group, breaks into a musical world typically dominated by male singers

Mark Baylis  
Pulse Reporter

A capella has been a musical genre typified by men from the days of the barbershop through the early 1990s pop revival. Aficionados have proclaimed their love for the bass, and men can hit the lower end notes — but the style has often eluded female singers.

Now the women are getting even. Divisi, the all-female campus a capella group, says it has no quips with performing in a musical landscape dominated by men. In fact, sophomore Divisi member Josi Henderson said the group enjoys it.

"I just went to the (International Championship of Collegiate A capella) finals in New York, and there were

no girl groups there," Henderson said. "So in that sense, it's a very liberating thing to do."

Divisi composes its own arrangements of modern, classic and traditional songs. The group's repertoire covers songs from Dave Matthews Band to Manhattan Transfer to Loreena McKennitt. The group formed last year when the singers realized there were no female a capella groups on campus. Now, a year later and 11 women strong, the group is catching its stride.

They reached the quarterfinals at the regional ICCA in Berkeley in February and performed at the first-ever ASUO Venus Festival on May 4. Henderson said she was excited to take part in the festival because there is a correlation between the challenges of being a woman and performing a capella music.

"Just like we don't need men to make music, not needing accompaniment is knowing that our body

can make music," she said. "When we come out to perform, all we have is ourselves."

"Our motto is that we're trying to figure out things for ourselves because it's important that we do things our own way."

Divisi is a musical term meaning a collection of separate parts that work together in harmony. It is an appropriate name for a group that has no director or appointed leader. All the arrangements are collaborative, which Henderson said has brought the group closer together.

"We're like sisters now; we definitely have a different dynamic than a guys' group would," Henderson said. "We're definitely a support system."

Divisi boasts two low-altos, Ana Corvett and Lisa Forkish, who won the Testosterone Award at the ICCA for their low range. Despite this range, Divisi members said they still confront resistance from the gender preferences of a capella fans. Howev-



Courtesy

Members of a capella group Divisi, back row, left to right: Sarah Klein, Hayley Ziebart, Julie Lehnardt, Lisa Forkish, Rachel Wierichs and Anna Corbett. Front row, left to right: Josi Henderson, Evynne Smith, Suzie Day, Diana Erskine and Katie Hopkins.

er, the members said they don't feel any competitive animosity with the male campus groups. In fact, Divisi

singers said On the Rocks members are their mentors.

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