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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Student Senate dishes out more surplus funds**

The ASUO Student Senate approved several special funding requests from student groups during an unusually long session Wednesday night in the EMU Gumwood Room. The requests came as the Senate continues to allocate an \$80,647 surplus.

The Senate voted 10-1-6 to grant the Students for Choice \$3,222 to travel to the March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. The group will send 17 representatives to the April 25 event.

The Multicultural Center received \$3,200 to help bring four nationally acclaimed speakers to the University on April 6 and 13. The free events will be part of the center's ongoing workshop series. The motion passed 15-1-1.

The Senate unanimously approved funds for the African Student Association's cultural night. The group received \$1,000 to rent the EMU Ballroom for the April 23 performance and fashion show.

At the special request of ASUO Vice President Eddy Morales, the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society presented a request for \$600 to attend the society's national meeting. The Senate unanimously approved the motion.

The Senate also voted unanimously

to allot \$300 to the University chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America to allow the group to attend a regional workshop. The Black Student Union's request to transfer \$250 into its food account was unanimously approved as well.

The Hong Kong Student Association was not present to make its request.

The Senate approved \$3,566,089 for the 2004-05 EMU Board's budget in a 10-1-6 vote, disregarding an ASUO Executive recommendation to allot \$120,000 of the reserves included in the budget to the Child Care and Development Centers. The EMU Board's budget is a 4.66 percent increase from last year. The Senate also appointed Sen. Bethany Larson to the Senate Rules Committee. Larson replaced Sen. Colin Andries, who resigned this week because of other time commitments.

Senate President Ben Strawn also discussed the possibility of using remaining surplus funds to reduce next year's incidental fees. The Senate will rule on the idea during its first spring term session.

- Parker Howell

**Student pleads innocent in bomb threat case**

James Gregory Evangelista, a graduate student studying special education, pleaded innocent Wednesday in Lane County Circuit Court to charges of menacing, harassment and disorderly conduct.

Eugene Police Department officers arrested 46-year-old Evangelista Feb. 25. Police allege he phoned in a bomb threat to the Knight Library from the University Bookstore, resulting in the evacuation and hour-long search of the building.

EPD obtained bookstore surveillance footage of Evangelista on the phone at the time of the call, EPD spokeswoman Kerry Delf said.

In a Feb. 27 e-mail to the Emerald, which was confirmed by phone, Evangelista wrote, "It doesn't take much to acknowledge and recognize that calling in a bomb threat to any public or private concern is the act of a desperately burdened mind.

"In hindsight, I could never have planned or imagined committing such a reckless act, particularly in this day of threats of fear mongering and terror," he added. "... I can only offer that during the last few months ... my personal and academic life was seriously compromised by my prolonged abuse of ephedra, an over-the-counter stimulant ... The tragic consequences of losing grasp on my reality due to the buildup of this drug in my system and my poor judgment and choice making are only now unfolding for me," he said.

Evangelista is scheduled to appear in circuit court on April 14 at 3:30 p.m. for a pre-trial conference.

- Jared Paben

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**CHOIR**

continued from page 1

concert choir once each term to practice for Wednesday's event. During these practices, high school students were positioned between college students on stage to encourage the mingling of talents and skills. Each choir practiced the music at least three times a week separately, so the meetings were meant specifically to fine-tune details and form a working team.

"It's nice to have a combined mass choir," elementary education major Amy Tai said. "This forces us to adapt."

The merging of age groups also allowed college students to serve as mentors to the high school communities. Although time to converse was minimal according to some high school students, many took the time they had to ask questions about music and college life.

"It helped them ask these questions in a comfortable setting," political science major Beth Overgard said.

Many of the choir members said they felt an overall sense of satisfaction

from serving as role models for the high school students.

"Knowing that I have something to offer and give it freely is a wonderful feeling," music education major Nicole McMahon said.

Although some of the high school choir members have decided to pur-

**"Knowing that I have something to offer and give it freely is a wonderful feeling."**

Nicole McMahon  
Music Education Major

sue music further in college, many participated for recreational purposes.

"It's not very practical to major in music and to make a profession out of it," Thurston senior Sheila Whittington said.

Whittington said she plans to attend the Culinary Institute of Portland, but added that she will continue to sing recreationally.

Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education Shannon M. Chase said she initiated the program with Thurston High School Choir director Mark Huisenga and Springfield High School Choir director Stacy Swartout with the intent of perpetuating musical and social communication between college and high school students.

In an anonymous survey Chase gave the students, one high school student said if nothing else, the partnership helped the student meet new people and reunite with old friends who already graduated.

"The power of music seems multiplied with so many voices behind it," another student wrote in the survey.

Chase went to both high schools to work with the students on techniques. She said she sees a future for the partnership program where the high schools will continue to meet for special events such as Wednesday's.

"The value this program is clearly there," she said.

Athanasios Fkiaras is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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