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Lane Transit announces impending driver strike

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

Students and University employees who rely on the bus system to get to and from campus may soon be searching for other ways to get around Eugene if Lane Transit District representatives and the labor union representing 80 percent of LTD's workers can't come up with a last-minute deal to divert a system-wide strike.

The University has no plan for alternative transportation for the thousands of students who depend on the bus because of how intricate such a plan would have to be to include everyone who might be affected by a driver strike, Department of Public Safety Interim Director Tom Hicks said.

"There's no way we can come close to offering

any of the services that LTD does," Hicks said.

Representatives from LTD say a strike could happen as soon as Jan. 25 because the union is required to give a 10-day notice about a strike and Jan. 15 is the final day of the negotiation's 'cooling-off period.'

According to LTD, nearly 3,000 University students and employees use the bus on a daily basis.

That figure is from 2003, but LTD Service Planning and Marketing Manager Andy Vobora said judging by the steady increase in enrollment at the University, that figure is not expected to have decreased this year.

The service contract between LTD and the University specifies a budget of \$583,250 in student fees to be used in order to provide

students with "unlimited ridership on all routes and schedules."

Student money will be refunded for the days when no bus service is available, but how that will be done has not been decided, Vobora said.

University efforts to mitigate problems that could arise from a strike has so far been focused on potential parking problems, Hicks said. The influx of vehicles on campus that could result from a lack of public transportation is an addressable problem, Hicks said, but the University has yet to decide on a set course of action.

Hicks sat down with Vobora, Department of Public Safety Parking and Transportation Manager Rand Stamm, ASUO President Adam Petkun, ASUO Community and Housing Coordinator Scott Lu and Human Resources

LTD, page 3A



Lane Transit District bus drivers are threatening to strike as soon as Jan. 25.

LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

FEED THE BIRDS



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Duke Cantrelle, a volunteer at FOOD For Lane County, feeds the birds in Skinner Butte Park with bread that is no longer edible for humans. "People forget about these birds during the winter. ... Everyone needs to be able to eat."

Workshops teach professors to use classroom technology

BY ANTHONY LUCERO
NEWS REPORTER

Many students have watched a professor spend 10 minutes trying to figure out why a PowerPoint presentation isn't showing up on the classroom projector screen or trying to operate other classroom technology. These faculty members do not have to struggle on their own — for instructors unfamiliar or uncomfortable with computers, the Teaching Effectiveness Program and the Center for Educational Technology host workshops that help faculty effectively employ different types of technology.

The first workshop, which began before fall term, included 62 faculty members and consisted of four workshops and a fellowship program. On Tuesday, the two programs hosted a seminar allowing University faculty who have attended previous workshops to provide feedback of how technology works in the classroom.

"We're going out of our area of comfort and complacency by embracing technologies, but we're only doing it if it's more effective, and not just for the sake of using technology," Terri Warpinski, vice provost for Academic Affairs, said.

Part of the seminar showed faculty how to effectively use software programs and Internet applications such as Blackboard that appeal to students and how to allow greater access and interaction with students in and out of the classroom.

Some of the improvements faculty members want to address in the next year are options that

TECH, page 4A

WAS TECHNOLOGY USED BY PROFESSORS IN THE CLASSROOM A HELP OR A HINDRANCE?



DANIELLE RICCARDI | Undeclared
"I take Art 101 and there was problems in the first class. They couldn't get two PowerPoint presentations working and between that and switching computers and professors, it took about a half-hour."



TORI WILSON | Undeclared
"I had a bad example because the teacher couldn't get the projector to work. But otherwise, you can look at course information out of class and you have more access."



JOE GIANNETTI | History
"Really frequently they waste time by trying to use the technology in Lillis. It'll take them like five minutes to set up a projection or the screen will be upside-down."



RICHARD PHAMDO | Pre-Med
"It helps out. In BA 101, he uses PowerPoint. It's pretty sweet."

State board approves University appeal for \$57 million in bonds

BY ADAM CHERRY
NEWS REPORTER

The State Board of Higher Education approved the University's request of more than \$57 million in bonds last month to fund five campus maintenance and expansion projects, including \$27.4 million for the acquisition of the Williams Bakery site near Franklin Boulevard.

The Living Learning Center, a new residence hall and classroom project that will be built between Hayward Field and Carson Hall, received \$14.4 million. The University Health and Counseling Center, whose administration is in the

process of planning a remodel, was approved for \$9 million. The Integrative Science Complex, another project in the planning stages, received \$4.7 million, and the EMU heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system got \$1.3 million.

The bond money approved for the University projects is part of \$153.2 million in bonds that will be sold to help fund campus projects at five Oregon public universities, according to the Board.

The Living Learning Center is on schedule for completion by fall of 2006, Director of University Housing Michael Eyster said. The project will cost approximately \$27 million.

"There were construction bids let in November and we had several companies apply," Eyster said. "Selection will be based not only on price but on interviews with contractors, because we want to get a quality contractor."

The University Health Center started working on its plan for remodeling in 2003.

"It's going to end up being a very nice building — modern and airy," Health Center Director Thomas Ryan said. "If everything stays on schedule, we're planning to break ground in August or September of 2005."

EXPANSION, page 8A

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

bond amounts approved by the state for campus projects:

\$1,350,000



Health and Counseling Center

\$9,080,000



EMU Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning System

\$14,424,000



Living Learning Center