

# OREGON DAILY EMERALD

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## Union sets strike date of March 7

*LTD and the union representing LTD drivers will attempt to resolve their disagreement Friday*

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF  
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

University students and the campus community will be without bus

service during Dead Week and Finals Week if Friday's bargaining session between Lane Transit District and the union representing

more than 75 percent of its employees fails to produce a contract agreement. The union has declared a strike date of March 7.

"This is the biggest crisis Lane Transit has been in, ever," said Carol Allred, executive board officer for the Amalgamated Transit

Union Division 757 and an LTD driver.

The two sides met with a professional mediator Friday, and ATU Vice President Jonathan Hunt said though he is hopeful a settlement will be reached, he will be meeting

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## Programs Finance Committee

# Student funding benchmark overspent

*The group must resolve the 1.9 percent surplus allocation before it submits its budget on March 7*

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF  
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee has overspent its funding benchmark by 1.9 percent and is working on a plan to reduce already approved group budgets in the fairest way possible, PFC Chair Persis Pohowalla said.

The committee is allowed to increase total group funding by a maximum of 7 percent of the total PFC budget per year, and its current budget recommendations total 8.9 percent.

The PFC must submit its final budget recommendations by March 7 in order for the ASUO Student Senate to vote on it at its March 9 meeting.

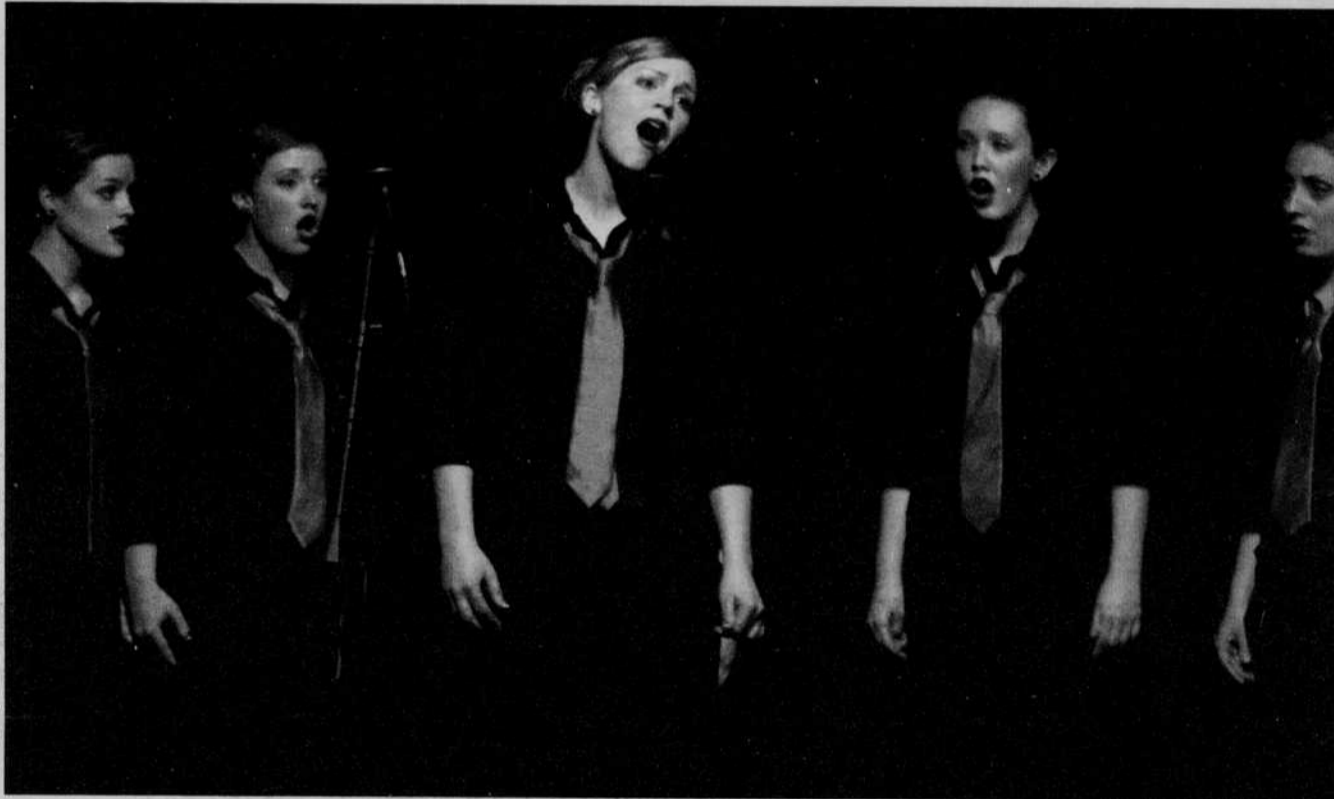
Members of the PFC met Friday with ASUO Vice President Mena Ravassipour, ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton-Neiwert, ASUO Finance Coordinator Mike Martell and ASUO Controllers Christina Diss and Rosie Sweetman to discuss possible ways to mitigate the problem. The PFC will meet tonight to further discuss possibilities.

Because the group has less than one week to submit its budget recommendations, discussions emphasized the timeliness of the situation and stressed that a decision may have to be made without knowing the exact financial impacts on each individual group.

The most widely discussed suggestion was calculating a current service level for each group and allotting just enough funds to keep groups at that level, but many questions surround what a current service level is and what the best way to calculate one is.

The ASUO controllers calculated each

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Evyne Smith, center, of Divisi, the University's only all-female cappella group, won outstanding solo at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella quarterfinal held Saturday night at South Eugene High School.

TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

## a NOTEworthy performance

*The University's all-female singing group Divisi took first place at a local cappella quarterfinal*

BY EVA SYLWESTER  
NEWS REPORTER

Divisi, the University's all-female cappella singing group, marked the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella's first Eugene event Saturday night

with a first place quarterfinals finish and numerous other awards in front of an oversold auditorium at South Eugene High School. Divisi and the three runners-up will travel to Stanford University next weekend to compete in the

ICCA semifinals.

Because Divisi placed first in its division, the group will go straight to the finals, while the three runners-up, Six in the City from the University of California, Berkeley, Everyday People from Stanford University and Outspoken from Oregon State University, will have to participate in semifinals earlier that day. The winner of the regional competition will move on to the national ICCA competition in New York City.

The ICCA holds competitions all over the country. Producer Julia Hoffman said ICCA decided this year to replace Salt Lake City with Eugene in the list of host cities.

"I'm glad that we did, because there's a lot of energy here," Hoffman said.

Hoffman said that ICCA tries to pick locations with clusters of popular cappella groups, while also trying to keep travel distances fair for all groups involved.

In the past, Divisi has had to travel to California to compete in ICCA events. This year, four groups from California came to Eugene: Six in the City, Cal Jazz Choir and DeCadence from UC Berkeley and Everyday People.

Kyle Davis of Everyday People described the trip to Eugene as "long."

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## Leaders strive for cultural diversity at University

BY AMANDA BOLSINGER  
NEWS REPORTER

As Black History Month ends, the Emerald is taking a look at two prominent black individuals who have dedicated their time and energy to promoting diversity and cultural awareness on campus.

Assistant Vice Provost of Institutional Equity and Diversity Carla Gary is working to spearhead the administration's effort to increase diversity by helping create a five-year diversity program on campus.

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TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Carla D. Gary, assistant vice provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity, is spearheading a five year diversity program.

## Four groups unite black students on UO campus

BY AMANDA BOLSINGER  
NEWS REPORTER

Black students have many options to explore their cultures and celebrate their diverse backgrounds. There are four groups specifically for black students on campus, the largest of which is the Black Student Union. BSU's primary function is to act as a support organization for students of African descent. The group also sponsors activities to bring more cultural awareness to the University. Some of BSU's annual activities are

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