

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
High: 55 Low: 39 Precip: 50%	High: 54 Low: 42 Precip: 80%	High: 58 Low: 44 Precip: 50%

Union: BSU includes three subgroups

Continued from page 1

its fall reception, Kwanzaa celebration, Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, Black Heritage Ball, Black History Month, Black Achievement Night, Black Arts Festival, and the BSU Commencement Ceremony.

BSU is the umbrella group for black students; there are three smaller groups on campus for black students that are suited to serve specific needs.

The African Student Association is for University students from Africa. The group's main purpose is to promote cultural awareness about Africa and African people through outreach programs. The association holds discussions on issues that African students face and explores different cultures and customs. The association has a first-year student orientation to help students adjust the college life and the life changes that come with it. The group co-hosts the International Student Association Coffee Hour and has an African cultural night that showcases African lifestyles and customs through food, dance, theater and fashion.

The Black Women of Achievement is another group under the umbrella of the BSU. BWA focuses on raising awareness of issues facing black women on campus and in the community. The group is a place for black women to meet for support and empowerment as well as being an outreach group on campus. BWA holds events throughout the year such as an annual Women's Empowerment Luncheon, Black Hair care day and Ebony Man Showcase.

The third group under BSU is the National Association of Black Journalists. The NABJ is an organization of journalists, students and media-related professionals. The association works to provide programs and services to black journalists worldwide. The NABJ explores issues many minority journalists face.

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Student Groups

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Leaders: Black history daily, not monthly, issue for student

Continued from page 1

Co-Director of the Black Student Union Tremaine Thompson is working from the student angle to recruit and involve students in different cultural affairs.

Carla D. Gary

Working toward campus diversity is a never-ending battle. Those who have devoted themselves to that battle face numerous challenges every day.

Carla Gary, assistant vice provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity, is part of many projects working to bring cultural variety to campus. Gary is a University alumna who returned to Oregon six years ago after working at universities in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

"My mother told me, 'I know you are doing great work, but it would be nice if you could do it at home,'" Gary said.

One of her newest and most exciting projects "expands and fills the pipeline" by preparing students for college, she said. The program brings in eighth-grade students to live in the residence halls and work on research projects. The students remain in the program, returning to campus each summer until they graduate from high school.

Each year a new group of eighth-grade students enters the program. The program's goals are to build skills and abilities for college preparation that schools with limited Advanced Placement classes and few college-bound students are unable to offer.

"It helps these kids see themselves as college material," Gary said.

Gary also collaborates on the diversity plan with Greg Vincent, vice provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity. Gary said the plan is working well.

"To see the University embrace the width and breadth of possibilities, it's exciting," Gary said. "We are anxious and impatient because we have waited too long, but there is steady progress. This isn't a quick fix."

A large part of the solution is for people to realize that issues of diversity do not only affect racial minorities, but they affect everyone, Gary said, adding that the multiple initiatives on campus to talk about diversity are a promising change.

"Before it was the exception when there were these conversations," Gary said. "People are stepping up and extending themselves. All parts, not just the usual people, have stepped up and said, 'We will commit.' It makes me proud that we are serious about it."

Gary said true campus diversity isn't about numbers and quotas, but reaching critical mass, which she described as students' ability to see themselves reflected in their surroundings.

"It's walking in and knowing the world will look like you or appear the same," Gary said. "If I was to go to the front of the class, you aren't surprised. When a student is in class and is the only student of color, or the only faculty member of color in

a department, you are in the spotlight to be everything for all people of color. It's a very exciting but isolating place to be."

Another crucial part of diversity on campus is an overall understanding of diversity and different cultures rather than celebrating diversity just once a year.

"Things that you honor you live every day," Gary said. "Respect that we live different lives. I live it every day; I want to get beyond the notion that we can acknowledge all of black history in one month. Come March I'll still be black and this will still be relevant."

the other leaders want all black students to feel involved and welcome with the BSU.

"Come to meetings when you can and help out with things that you can," Thompson said. "I don't know how many members we have; we are open to everyone."

"We are trying to get out there more," Thompson said. "It's hard to do a lot because of time commitments, though."

Thompson said he deals with black history continually.

"During Black History Month it's put out there more, but I deal with the history every day," he said.



TREMAINE THOMPSON
JOURNALISM SENIOR

Tremaine Thompson

Getting people involved is part of Tremaine Thompson's job description; as co-director of the Black Student Union, he is responsible for attracting interest from outside the group.

Thompson has been part of the BSU since his freshman year, and he says moving into a leadership position seemed like a natural fit for him. He focuses on recruiting freshmen.

"I am most proud of getting freshmen interested," Thompson said. "I am just trying to reciprocate. The senior guys got me really interested when I was a freshman, and I want to get other people into it."

The BSU has no membership requirements because Thompson and

Thompson said an important part of increasing campus diversity is the growing number of black students choosing the University for academics.

"Students of color are coming," Thompson said. "There are more and more, but it is important to have many African-Americans here for education, not just athletics."

As well as being busy with BSU activities, Thompson is a part of the National Association for Black Journalists. He said he makes a point to stay active with different events on campus and in the community. His advice to incoming students is to "be involved with campus. There is way more to campus life than just being a student," Thompson said.

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IN BRIEF

Oregon legislators: Due for a pay raise?

SALEM — Oregon's legislators could be in line for a pay raise, to bring them closer to the levels of other Western states with part-time legislatures.

Currently, the state's legislators are paid \$1,283 per month, about the same as working 40 hour weeks at minimum wage. During the legislative session every other year, they get an additional \$91 a day.

Some say the low pay makes it difficult for younger people, or those of average income, to serve in the Legislature.

Additionally, in the past few years some legislators have chosen not to run for re-election because of financial concerns, leaving the Legislature dominated either by retirees or those who can afford to take the time to serve.

Take the case of former Rep. Rob Patridge of Medford, a 36-year-old moderate Republican who was seen as a rising star in Salem.

Though young, Patridge was a veteran of three legislative sessions and was respected by members of both parties.

Last year, though, Patridge decided

not to seek re-election.

"It's a huge financial sacrifice," Patridge told The Oregonian. "It was a substantial factor in me deciding not to go back."

Sen. Alan Bates, a Democrat from Ashland, praised Patridge's successor, Sal Esquivel, but said pay shouldn't be so low that it forces lawmakers to choose between public service and their families.

"At this level, you go broke at it," Bates said. "We want Rob here now, when he's young and vigorous, representing his generation."

The idea of raising legislative pay will be part of the discussion when Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, and House Speaker Karen Minnis, R-Wood Village, form a public commission next month to consider possible changes to the Legislature.

The 30-person commission is also expected to consider whether the Legislature should shift to annual sessions.

Currently, the average age of legislators is over 50. Few legislators are in their 40s, and only a handful are younger than 40.

The average compensation, including salary and per diem payments, was \$35,326 a year, the national conference said. An Oregon legislator

receiving per diem payments for 180 days would be paid about \$32,000 this year.

Average Oregon household income is almost \$42,000, according to 2004 estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Students in LCC class go ghost hunting

EUGENE — Everything was in place for the first annual seance this weekend at Eugene's Bijou Art Cinema.

The chandeliers were draped with cobwebs. The rooms were dark, drafty and musty, and the theater has been rumored to be haunted for years.

Best of all were the team of trained ghost investigators, the 15 students taking Ghost Hunting 101 at Lane Community College, who were trying out their new skills for the first time.

The students, who have come from as far as Roseburg to take the class, have had six weeks of classroom instruction on how to invite and document paranormal manifestations.

Lore holds that a local restaurant owner once felt a ghostly presence here, Bijou manager Louise Thomas said. And former employees reported unnerving incidents, such as items falling off shelves and walls as they walked into empty rooms.

But Thomas attributes those to a former Bijou worker who delighted in booby-trapping rooms to scare his superstitious colleagues.

Undeterred, the fledging ghost hunters in Martina and Todd Baker's class set to work on Saturday with cameras, electromagnetic field detectors, temperature probes and tape recorders.

Students snapped pictures in the seemingly empty theater, occasionally capturing what they called "auras" circles of white or colored light.

The morning's top find was by student Katherine Krohn.

"I think I've got an apparition here!" she exclaimed. Excited classmates clustered around her camera's tiny digital display.

Sure enough, the screen showed a cluster of lights near the stage that could be interpreted as a man wearing a white shirt and tie.

Ghost Hunting 101 has been so popular, LCC will offer it again spring and summer terms.

Martina Baker said she welcomes all true believers and skeptics alike.

"I mainly want to educate people who've had an experience they can't explain, so they're not afraid," she said.

— The Associated Press

Student Checklist

- Study for test
- Do laundry
- Meet for PIZZA AND A BREW!

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You are invited to an

Open House to review the Updated Campus Plan

Tuesday, March 1 from 11:30 to 1:30
EMU Concourse

Drop by to learn about proposed changes to the Campus Plan and give us your input.

There also will be a public hearing before the Campus Planning Committee on April 12 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the EMU Rogue Room.

For more information contact the University Planning Office at 346-5562 or go on-line: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~uplan> ("Campus Plan Update" link).