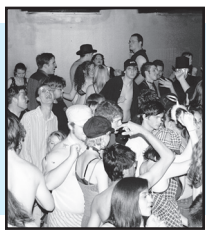


## ENTERTAINMENT

Students show their naughty and nice sides at the Erotic Ball. **page 7**



## SPORTS

Raiders punch ticket to second straight Final Four. **page 11**



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Issue 21  
Volume 80

# The Siskiyou

southern oregon university

April 23  
2007

## ASSOU candidate admits to lying about vigil claim

By Emily Higham  
*The Siskiyou*

Brandi Freeman, a junior and Associated Students of Southern Oregon University Presidential candidate, confessed Friday afternoon she lied about her claim that her cousin was among the 33 people who were killed in the shootings at Virginia Tech. She and running mate Austin Loreman have removed themselves from the ballot.

Last Thursday at the candlelight vigil held in Stevenson Union Courtyard, Freeman spoke during the open mic portion of the vigil and stated her cousin, Kayla Grow, was killed in the university shooting. The name Freeman gave is not one listed on the "In Memoriam" section of the Virginia Tech Web site.



FREEMAN

"I'm bipolar and I've been off my medication," Freeman said. "I've been making bad decisions lately."

Freeman said she did know people who were affected by the Virginia Tech tragedy, and that she personalized the situation.

"I thought it would make me look like a better candidate," Freeman said. "I thought I would gain votes from people who didn't know me. I have no explanation. I made a really stupid, stupid choice."

According to an Ashland Daily Tidings article, speculation arose when the newspaper was notified before printing a story about the vigil that Freeman's cousin's name did not match any who were killed in the shootings that occurred Monday, April 16. The newspaper also confirmed the name was not among the wounded. The Tidings staff went as far as calling the Virginia Tech registrar, where the name was also not found. The Tidings also said Freeman claimed her cousin's name was changed in the witness protection program to Emily Hilscher, who is listed as a victim on the VT Web site.

"It was back and forth," said Scott Steussy, design editor.

See "FREEMAN" Page 2

# 'AS A NATION WE LIFT YOU UP'

These words, shared with the SOU community by student Ryan Jephson at Thursday's candlelight vigil, offer a sentiment felt by universities across the country. In the aftermath of the tragedies at Virginia Tech in which 33 people lost their lives, SOU offers compassion to a fellow university family. Here, we'll give the feelings and reactions of students on our own campus, how we can cope and how we can learn.

Compiled by JRN 341 Class  
*For The Siskiyou*

In the wake of the deadliest school shooting in American history, many people, including students at Southern Oregon University, are still left with many questions and unresolved issues.

A week ago Monday, Cho Seung-Hui, a 23-year-old South Korean student at Virginia Tech, shot and killed two students in a dormitory before heading across campus where he locked himself, other students and professors in classrooms and began shooting, killing 30 people and himself.

"It's a horrific event that could happen anywhere—even in a place where it would be unthinkable, such as Ashland," said SOU senior Megan Shreeve.

Other students have felt the

effects in different ways. Nicole Larrimore, a senior business administration major at SOU, notices the numbing effect the event has on her.

"I try not to think about it because I don't want it to be real life," said Larrimore.

Decarie Robertson, an elementary education student, asks, "If his life was so messed up that he wanted to end it, why did he have to take out innocent lives in the process?" Questions like these, she said, often don't have easy answers.

Although most or all students are still reacting to the shooting, some students indicated they were not nervous or scared arriving on campus Tuesday morning, even though SOU has no specific plan of action if a shooting were to occur.

"I'm not really scared as far as

## Public safety steps up operations on campus

By Bryan Messmer  
*The Siskiyou*

College campuses around the nation have been impacted by the tragedy that occurred at Virginia Tech early last week.

Many students at SOU have questioned the university's current policies and procedures regarding campus safety. The university is working diligently to address and reform where needed to insure a safe campus community.

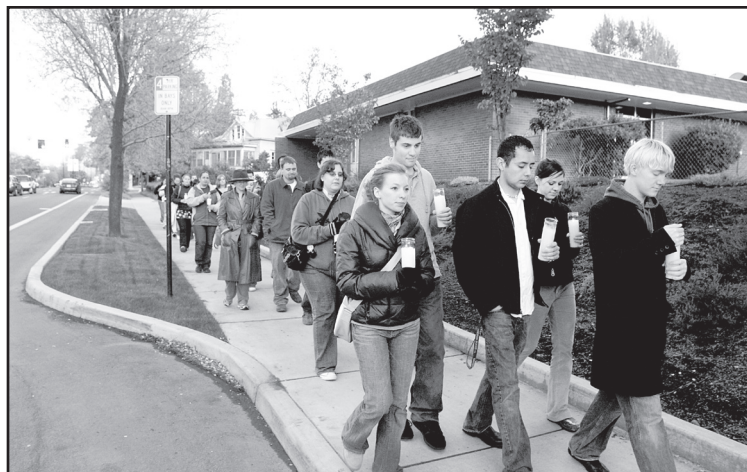
"This is a high priority issue,"

said President Mary Cullinan, "We're doing our best to calm students and make the best plan for the long run."

President Cullinan said she is still familiarizing herself with the university's current safety policies, but is confident the SOU campus will remain safe and her experience in Texas will contribute to further insuring the safety of students. Cullinan met with Jonathan Eldridge, director of student affairs, at 2 p.m. Thursday to discuss ways to better secure the campus.

"We need to balance the fact

Top: Ryan Jephson reads his poem "On This Day" that he wrote while watching the news. Middle: SOU students walk downtown in memory of the students killed in the VT tragedy. Bottom: Julie Gellen holds her candle during the vigil in the SU courtyard. Photos by Landon Stevens



our own school goes, but it makes you want to think about how quickly a life can end," said Mandi Stewart, a health and physical education major.

Though Ashland and SOU have had no recent threats, some students are worrying about issues of school safety. One thing people talk about is how to get emergency messages to students in a timely way.

Presently, SOU uses an e-mail alert system, but is in the process of looking for other means of communicating, said Vice President for Student Affairs Jonathan Eldridge. Unfortunately, students don't check their e-mails or do not receive them in time to take advantage of the notification.

"If there was a shooting here, I don't think I would hear about it until I showed up. Whether they send an e-mail or not," said SOU senior Megan Flannery.

School violence and shootings have become bigger media events in the last decade, and by the numbers, are getting worse.

"We're seeing so much violence in schools," says senior Zach Schmerber, "It's starting to elevate into college now. It's hard to see and watch."

Students and faculty are sharing their feelings through various public forums. In the foyer of the Stevenson Union, individuals have the opportunity to write comments

See "TECH" Page 2

that there is a security issue with the fact that this is a free place for thought," said Cullinan. "This is the dilemma we face."

People have been sending comments and suggestions to the President's office regarding how the university can better secure the campus. According to Cullinan, three students have shown concerns for their safety at the university.

"It shakes me up a little bit, but it won't make me change how I live," said Chris Benware, senior and political science major.

Benware added that he felt safe on the SOU campus because of the campus gun ban. According to Brian Nordahl, campus public safety officer, there is a ban on having guns on any of the Oregon University System campuses. The ban prevents even those with concealed weapons permits from carrying a firearm on an OUS campus.

Cullinan sent out a campus-wide e-mail just following the Virginia Tech shooting reassuring the campus community that SOU

See "SAFETY" Page 2

## ASSOU PRESEIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Compiled by Jake Purcell, for The Siskiyou  
For voting locations and times, see Week@School, page 4

### Presidential Candidate

## DOUGLAS PETERSON

#### Previous ASSOU Involvement

- Resident Assistant
- ASSOU Housing Senator (two years)
- ASSOU Student Advocate
- Camp Counselor
- Big Brother



### Vice Presidential Candidate

## CARL BARCOFT

#### Previous SOU Involvement

- ASSOU Science Senator (2 years)
- ASSOU Election Committee Chairman
- Resident Assistant
- Organized & led Leadership Workshop Camp



## PETERSON-BARGROFT PLATFORM

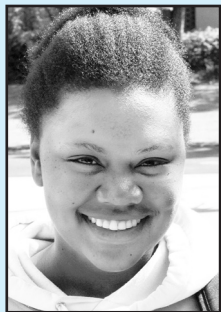
- Find Creative Ways To Fund Oregon Education
- Create Lasting Ties Between SOU and Ashland Community
- Support Local And Regional Economies
- Increase Student Involvement And Awareness

### Presidential Candidate

## MONIQUE TEAL

#### Previous SOU Involvement

- Director Of Governmental Affairs
- Oregon Student Association Executive Cabinet Member
- Former Resident Assistant

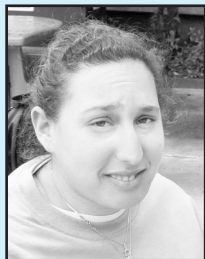


### Vice Presidential Candidate

## ELIZABETH TAFEEN

#### Past Experience

- Criminology Club Member
- Worked on SOU Phonathon
- Two years lifeguarding experience
- Four years of head coaching experience



## TEAL-TAFEEN PLATFORM

- Amplify student voice
- Support sustainability council efforts
- Restructure student fee process
- Advocate for students
- Serve student interest and activities equitably
- Work to keep tuition low and increase financial aid
- Improve academic integrity
- Require mandatory textbooks in the library
- Provide early access to class syllabi

Photos by Ed Twibell/The Siskiyou

## Safety ...

Continued from Page 1

is a safe place to learn and that the university is treating the situation very seriously.

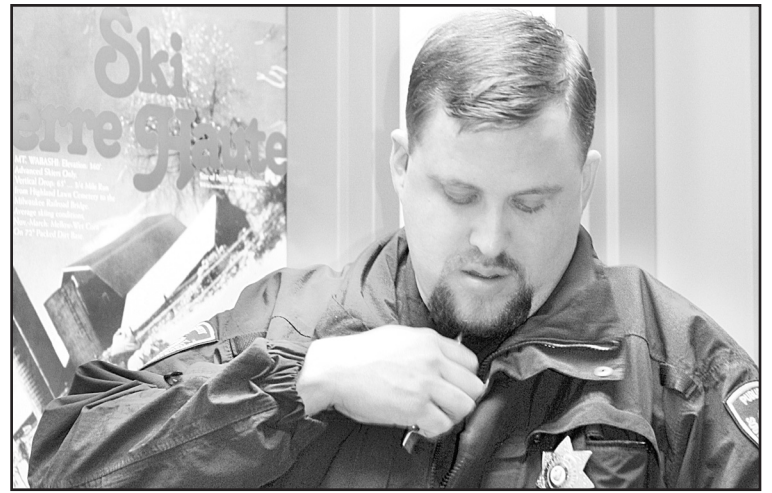
"We want to create the best environment we can," said Cullinan.

Cullinan also commented that the university is working closely with local authorities to assure the university is ready in a time of crisis. The e-mail included a link to view the university's current Emergency Procedures Manual. Cullinan will be reviewing and possibly revising any procedures that may be in need of revision.

"We need to make sure we have the best possible practice here," said Cullinan. "You don't want to put things in place in a moment of panic."

CPS has a plan of operations as well in the case there is any detrimental event that could take place on campus. Public Safety is involved with local authorities in working to prevent and address several types of events that could occur.

"The emergency action plan is all-encompassing," said Nordahl. "The plan covers anything from



Anne Hutchinson/The Siskiyou

Campus public safety Officer Brian Nordahl reported on a professor's unlocked door and checked for damage last Saturday night.

a terrorist attack to a shooting to a natural disaster. The plan mobilizes all those that need to be mobilized."

Nordahl confirmed that the emergency procedures are not necessarily changing, but CPS has been in close contact with the local authorities and President Cullinan to ensure the procedures in the event of an emergency will be as effective as possible.

"A shooting could happen anywhere. In preventing it we have a lot of services on campus that are

watchful over the students' well being," said Nordahl.

Campus Public Safety has officers on campus 24 hours a day, every day of the week. Two years ago CPS, along with the local authorities, trained with the use of the emergency action plan in a simulation of a terrorist attack on the university.

"It's one thing to see the plan on paper, but it was amazing to see how well it worked in training," said Nordahl. "It went very smooth and worked well."

## Freeman ...

Continued from Page 1

tor of the Ashland Daily Tidings. "She would give us a new story each time and we would prove it false."

Freeman's running mate Loreman was in the KSOC studio watching the Raider Sports Talk show during the vigil, and said he didn't have any knowledge of her comment. When the article appeared on the Ashland Daily Tidings Web site Friday night, Loreman was taking a weekend trip down to the Los Angeles area. He said he had a message on his phone from Freeman when he got off the plane.

"It's unfortunate that I had to be out of town when this situation happened," Loreman said. "It seemed to be in our better interest that we pull out [of the election]. It seemed like the right thing to do. Sometimes things happen that you can't control."

Loreman also said that he had been looking forward to serving SOU as vice president and now plans to look into petitioning for an open ASSOU Senate seat. An

e-mail sent by Election Committee Chair Jake Purcell Saturday night confirmed Freeman and Loreman's withdrawal from the ASSOU running.

SOU administration was as startled as Loreman after learning about Freeman's false claim, as she had been serving as an ASSOU senator and had lobbied in both Washington, D.C. and at the Oregon Capitol to encourage lawmakers to fund higher education.

"If someone makes a choice like that" said Eldridge in Satur-

day's Daily Tidings article, "It is a sign there are a lot of issues going on for that person. It is easy to judge, but obviously, my first thought is a student like that may need some help."

"The Siskiyou" would like to encourage students to seek help if you or someone you know have questions or concerns about bipolar disorder and other mental illnesses. Contact the ACCESS center at 552-6213 or the Student Health and Wellness Center at 552-6136.

## Tech ...

Continued from Page 1

on a large board or in a card, which will be sent to Virginia Tech. Small group discussions and a candlelight vigil were held last week to help students express their fears, condolences and apologies.

"My heart and prayers go out to all the families and loved ones," said junior Austin Loreman. "I just can't imagine that happening to me or anyone that I know. There's nothing I can say that will help or fix it, but I have heart felt compassion for everyone that was affected."

Teresa Beskow, Scott Charlson, Ellie Corso, Darren Halstead, Jacob Hastings, Abby Horton, Matthew Rettke, Philip Shilts and Claire Zandoli contributed to this article.

# MAP

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# Annual career fair draws students to employers

By Teresa Beskow  
The Siskiyou

Southern Oregon University students clad in business attire sold themselves to professional recruiters at the Career Fair 2007 Thursday, April 19.

From 11:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., 59 business, nonprofit and government organizations camped out in the Rogue River Room of the Stevenson Union in search of future employees and interns. At each booth, recruiters and business appointees were available to discuss students' prospects within that institution as well as possible future career paths.

"There is a full Rogue River room this year," Peter Weston, SOU's career services director, said. "There are businesses looking to discuss employment opportunities...students should network with these employees to find their goals."

Companies present offered a wide variety of positions in diverse fields. Accounting, hotel management, media studies, marketing and nursing were a few of those represented.

Businesses present held high expectations for future employees. One such business was Ashland Partners & Company LLP offering investment management and veri-

fication services. The company's Performance Analyst Leo Hull said, "We're looking for people specializing in computer science, mathematics and business...people who wear suits and present themselves in a professional manner."

His colleague and senior verifier, Wendy Gorman, agreed.

"We're in search of students who can show professionalism, good communication, confidence, and knowledge...you can never downplay knowledge," she said. "Students should present themselves in a manner that they would like to be recognized by."

Gorman said that the company has had prior success finding such students at SOU considering that "approximately half of the firm is SOU students." Some of these students work in offices across the United States as far as Boston. The firm was happy to receive six resumes at the fair.

"There are opportunities for freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors... students looking for summer jobs or networking for future employment," said Weston.

Students were doing just that. Brea Viratos, a senior in Biology, was looking for a local job and was especially interested in a technical job offered by the Retina Vitreous Center. She said that visiting the Career Fair was an opportunity



Beth Pahl/The Siskiyou

Dae-Jun Kim takes a business card from a prospective employer last Thursday at the SOU career fair in the Rogue River Room. Students talked with business owners from the area and handed out their resumes.

for her to "practice speaking to professionals".

The fair was also an opportunity for non-seniors to get a feel for jobs out there. Julianne Maeda, a junior in human communication, said, "I'm just here looking for a summer internship and also checking [the fair] out to see what I can expect in the future."

A few of the business recruiters were SOU alumni. Andrea Parks

received her degree in business administration with an emphasis in marketing and is now working as the Corporate Recruiter for Marquis Companies, an organization offering assisted living, nursing, and home health care services.

"As an organization we want to give back to the universities," Parks said.

Of the hundreds of students that traveled in and out of the Rogue

River Room, many indicated that it was a relief to see the number of jobs and valuable work experience open to students and graduates.

"I'm only a freshman," said Grace Cartwright, a nursing major. "But I attended the fair anyway and was able to meet some professional business men and women and see what opportunities existed for me once I've attained my degree."

# Shared responsibility model passes Oregon senate

By Cynthia Edmonds  
The Siskiyou

The Shared Responsibility Model, a new structure for student need-based aid, passed the Oregon State Senate by a unanimous vote on April 11.

This model is designed to expand the Oregon Opportunity Grant, Oregon's only financial aid grant. After the model takes affect, more lower-middle-class students will be eligible to receive financial aid, said Monique Teal, Associated Students of Southern Oregon University director of government-

tal affairs.

"Students have been working really hard to get this passed and it's really great to see it moving through," said Teal.

The SRM is the first model to define what a student can actually pay for higher education, said Courtney Sproule, Oregon Student Association communications director. The model looks at the funding level of individual students.

It is not a reality for today's students to work their way through college, said Sproule. The SRM implements this philosophy by

offering financial aid for undergraduate study.

Under the new model, each year a student at a public university will share the responsibility of funding their education. Students are expected to contribute a reasonable saving by working 10 hours a week during the school year and full-time during the summer at a minimum wage job, as well as take out \$2,750 in loans. Parents are expected to submit what they can and students are required to use the maximum in federal grants. The SRM will supplement the extra costs not covered.

According to the OSA website, the SRM would serve 20,000-25,000 more grant recipients and boost enrollment in Oregon institutions by 3,775 per year. The SRM would close the affordability gap.

Before, only those of greatest financial need would be covered under the OOG. The OOG falls short of meeting its goal of closing the affordability gap, serving only the very neediest of students with a small flat grant that is arbi-

trarily based on 11 percent of the cost of education, stated the OSA Web site. The SRM would close this gap by creating an income curve. Students who earn slightly more than the maximum income covered by the OOG will not be cut off from funding, but only see a small decrease in the amount of grant money received.

Currently 15.5 percent of students at SOU receive a total of \$1,095,601 in education funding through the OOG, said Peg Blake, director of financial aid at SOU. According to Blake, financial aid under the SRM will be determined the same way as under the OOG. The OOG is based on eligibility for the federal Pell Grant, which provides federal money to the students with the most financial need.

SOU attracts rural demographics, and rural areas are currently economically depressed, said Teal. The more financial aid there is, the more likely a greater number of students will enroll in college. More money in the university will help alleviate the budget crisis and fewer programs would likely be cut.

After years spent designing and implementing the SRM, major lobbying started last June. The SRM was the first floor vote to take place this legislative session on one of Oregon college students' priority issues, stated a recent OSA press release. The bill will now continue to the House Elections Committee and is expected to pass.

"It's good that we're seeing that support. This has been one of our biggest successes," said Brook Colley, ASSOU director of communications. "It shows students' voices can be heard by our legislators."

"This is a historic step toward

victory for Oregon college students," said OSA board member and University of Oregon Student Body President Jared Axelrod in a press release. "For our state, this means more students will have access to college—and more college grads means a stronger Oregon."

The Oregon State Senate and House Joint Ways and Means Committee budget released on Feb. 22 by co-chairs Senator Kurt Schrader and Representative Mary Nolan already allotted money for the SRM.

"The idea is to have it implemented by the beginning of the next [school] year," said Teal.

If it passes, the SRM will be phased-in and fully implemented by 2009, but the money allocated by the Ways and Means Committee will begin the program while phasing out the OOG, said Teal.

The model is part of a larger package to serve funding for higher education, including funding university courses, said Sproule.

Without funding for universities and colleges, students worry the SRM could offer an empty promise, stated a press release from OSA.

The OSA released a report on March 27 demonstrating that for 43 percent of university seniors and 40 percent of juniors, an inability to enroll in classes extended their stay in college. A lack of advising extended their stay for 16 percent of all college and university students. Students worry if campuses do not have the funds to help students graduate on time, the model will not be as effective as it applies to the first four years of college, stated the press release.

Additional information about the SRM and other OSA issues can be found at [www.orstudents.org](http://www.orstudents.org).

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