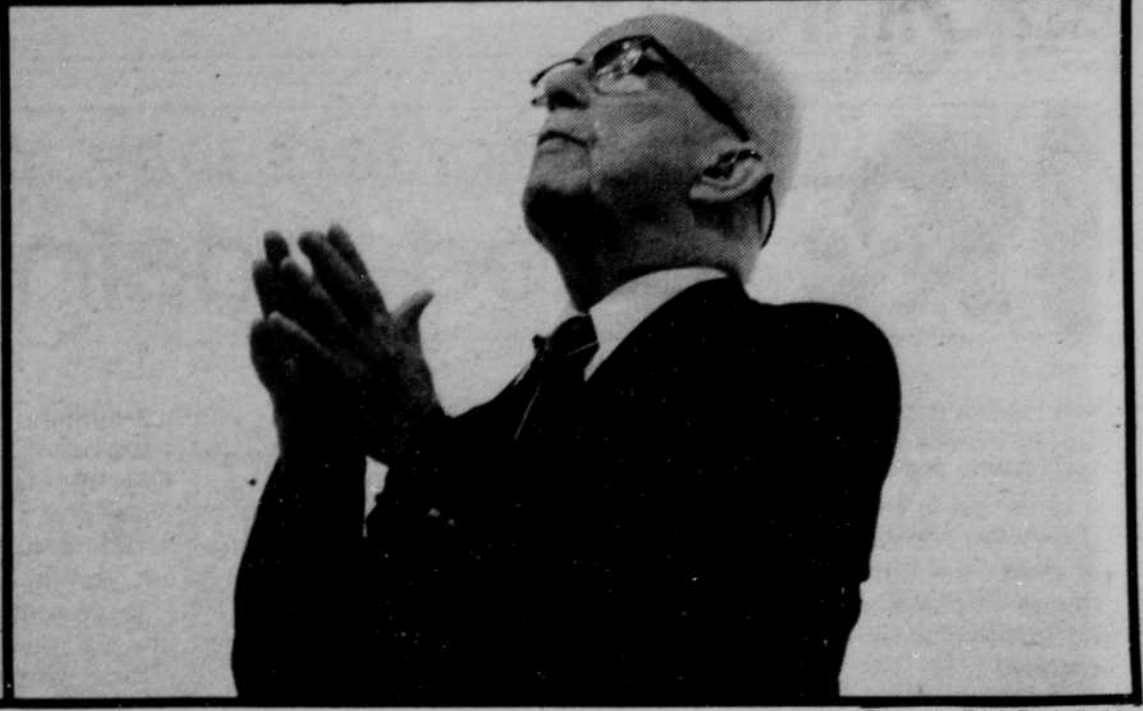
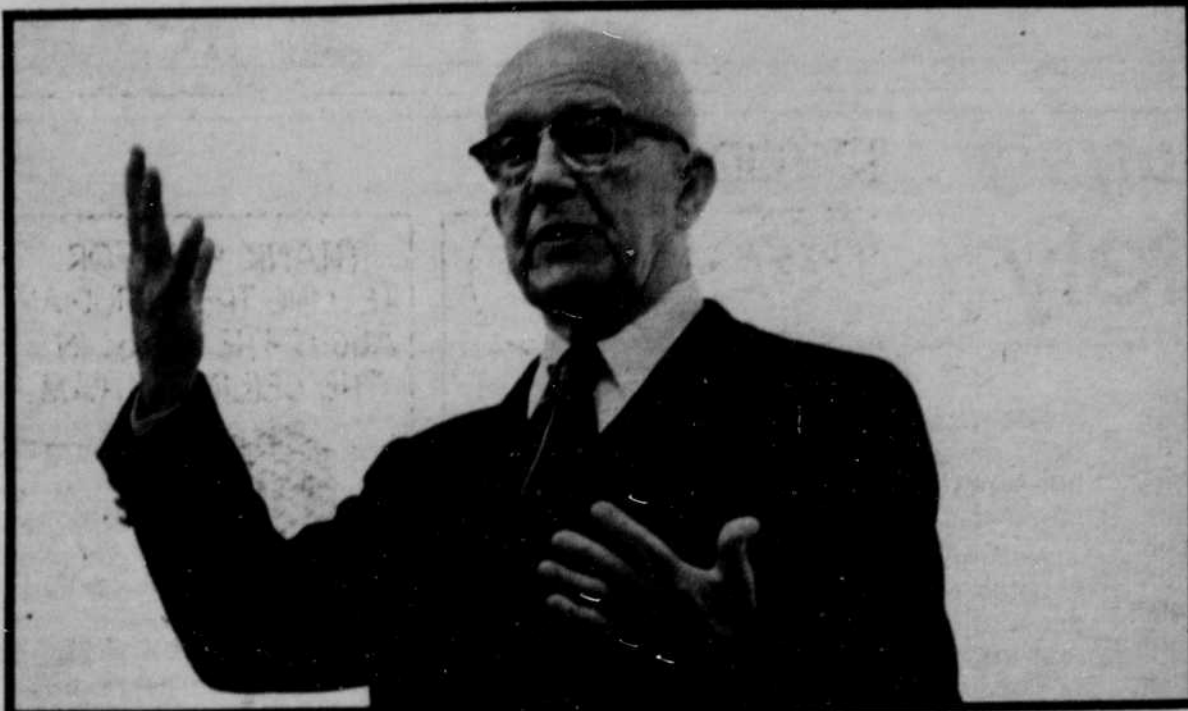




Photos by Erich Boekelheide

Buckminster Fuller

Reality without context concerns inventor

By DAVID STEINMAN
Of the Emerald

"Yesterday, when I was in New York, a newsman asked me to review the last half century," said animated Buckminster Fuller, now 84 years old, in a speech Tuesday at the EMU Ballroom.

"When I was born, reality was what we could touch and hear," Fuller said. "In the year I was born, X-rays were discovered, but their discovery was not a news item. When I was three, electrons were discovered and again their discovery was given little mention in the news. Nothing in man's past prepared him to accept these things right away.

"Today, reality is without contact of

human senses. We have an enormous invisible reality. This country has satellites a hundred miles above the earth that can tell the difference between a sheep and a goat, but newspapers are still talking in the same old way. Most of which has happened has not been comprehended by society."

Fuller's speech lasted almost three hours and covered a range of topics from his naval days and increased tensile strengths of metals to his Dymaxion Airocean World Map — the first cartographic system to receive an United States patent — to his analysis of Malthus and Darwin's theories and as well to one of his favorite topics — the value of the triangle.

Fuller, whom admirers have called

"the first poet of technology," also discoursed thoroughly on world history, charting grand strategies of power structures from the Mycenaean civilization of ancient Greece through the time of Alexander the Great, to Magellan, Britain's rule of the oceans and then onto World War I, in which Fuller participated as the commander of an U.S. Navy vessel.

Fuller's knowledge seemed to touch upon every aspect of man's endeavors. A part of his talk included a slide show that analyzed the history of civilization by its discovery of the elements.

Leonardo Da Vinci's design for a flying machine is not different than the human-powered flying machine recently flown across the English

channel, Fuller said.

"Can anyone tell me what this building weighs?" Fuller asked the packed crowd in the EMU Ballroom. When no one answered Fuller said, "You see — we don't think of performance per pound."

In relating Darwin's theory of evolution to political structures, Fuller said, "When Darwin's theory was developed, the Marxists said it proved the worker was the most fit since it was his hands and knowledge of the use of tools that supplied the population. The capitalists said that the man-on-top was the most fit since he didn't have to work. Now the United States and Russia have spent 200 billion dollars in the last 30 years in weaponry trying to prove to each other they're right."

Discussion on GPAs planned

The Student University Affairs Board will hear a discussion of a proposed change to grade point averages as a method of determining academic standing Wednesday at 3:30 in the EMU, room to be posted.

Robert James, architecture and allied arts professor, will present the plan to the Board. Jess Barton, SUAB chair, says he will be "more than happy to open the floor to questions" from students and others at the meeting.

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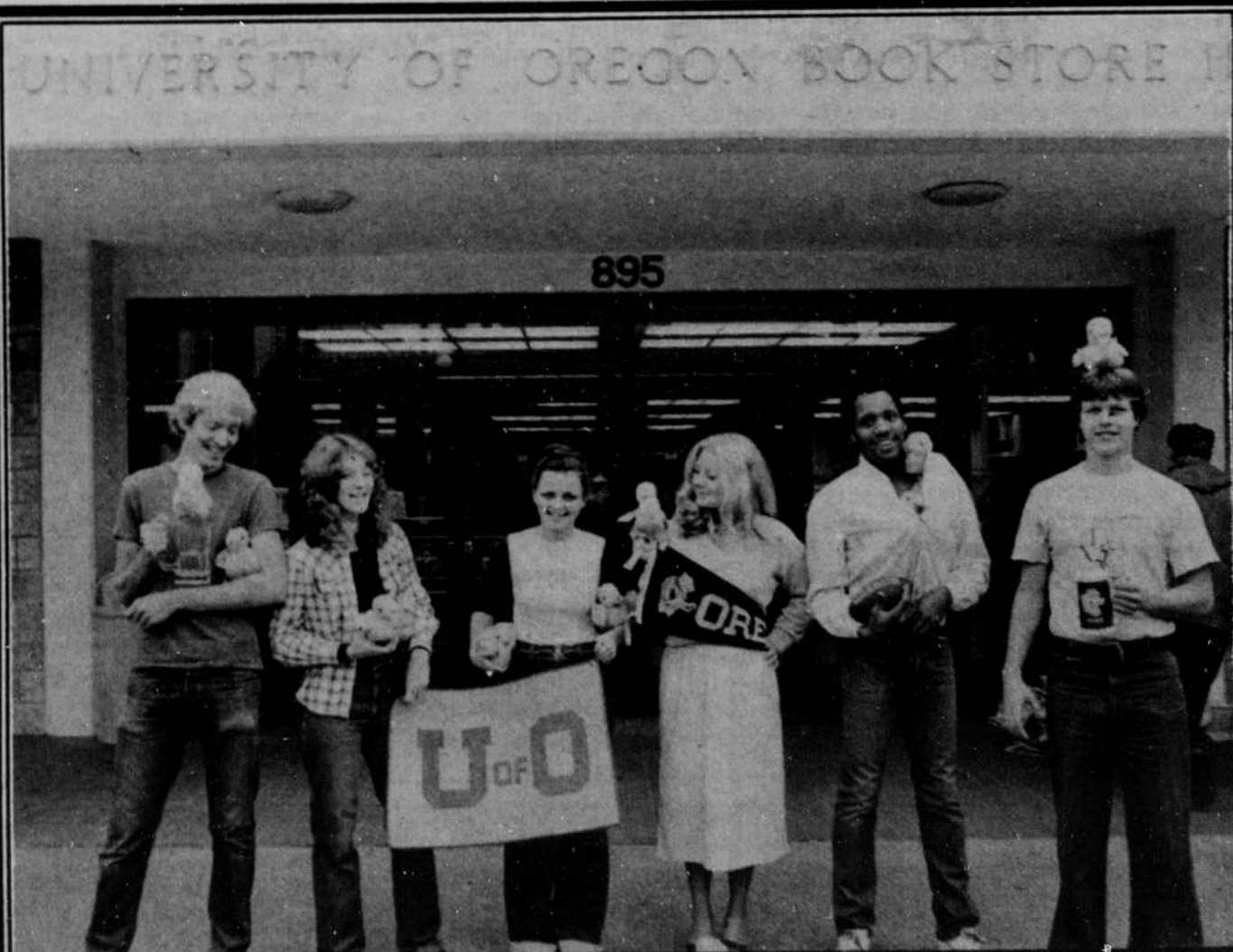
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