

## Special session called to debate tax reform plan

□ The Oregon Legislature will consider Gov. Roberts' plan to overhaul the state's tax structure.

By Tim Neff  
Emerald Associate Editor

Gov. Barbara Roberts on Tuesday called a July 1 special session of the Legislature and placed one item on the agenda — tax reform.

Roberts will unveil her tax reform proposal today before the House Revenue and School Finance Committee.

The *Oregonian* on Wednesday reported that the governor's plan will likely include a 3.5 percent sales tax on goods only, a split-roll property tax with a higher rate for commercial property, and income tax relief for people earning less than \$50,000 a year.

Any legislation coming out of the House Revenue Committee will be voted on in the senate and the house of representatives July 1. If passed by both chambers, Roberts will push for a Sept. 15 statewide vote on the proposal.

Sarah Ames, communications director for the Governor's Office, said Roberts wants a special election because the tax reform issue would be vying for attention with other issues if it was placed on the November ballot.

"The governor feels that a September vote offers Oregonians a better opportunity to focus on this issue," Ames said. "It should have the attention of all Oregonians."

The governor's strongest opposition will likely come from House Speaker Larry Campbell, R-Eugene, who wants to place any tax reform proposal on the November ballot.

Ames said Campbell has indicated that Roberts' proposal would be decided by an "up or down vote" during the one-day special session. No other proposals will be floated.

Campbell has also said he would not hold the Republican caucus to a position on Roberts' proposal.

Ames said a September vote would give state agencies time to restructure budgets according to any changes in available funds.

University President Myles Brands has announced deep budget cuts to bring the University's 1993-95 budget in line with the second round of the Measure 5 property tax rollback. The second phase calls for 20 percent cuts across the board for the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

At the University, the proposed cuts include eliminating 166 positions in the schools and colleges, 139 positions in other academic units, 22 positions in student services positions in administrative support services.

In all, the University would lose about \$30.5 million over the next two years if Measure 5 is implemented in its original form.

Ames said Roberts has offered several criteria for what a good tax reform proposal would accomplish. That criteria includes completely restructuring the sys-

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Photo by Jeff Paslay  
Kim Donahey plays the part of "Woman 1" in the Lord Leebrick Theatre Company's production of "Play" by Samuel Beckett. The theater group will debut two one-act plays Saturday in the Broadway Building at 30 E. Broadway.

## Serious drama returns to Eugene

□ The Lord Leebrick Theatre Company produces serious plays with dark messages.

By Tim Neff  
Emerald Associate Editor

The Eugene drama scene, known more for its light-hearted musicals than for dark existential plays, is about to experience a plot twist.

When drama aficionados turn out this Saturday for The Lord Leebrick Theatre Company's debut performances, they'll be in for a type of production that

has been conspicuously absent from Eugene venues for the past five years — shadowy plots with disturbing messages.

Behind the push for dark theater in Eugene are two recent graduates of the University of California at Irvine drama department. Randy Lord and Chris Leebrick hope that their brand of serious drama will fill a void in the local theater scene.

"Right now in Eugene there are no theater groups that do serious theater, like dramas and avant-garde plays," Leebrick said. "We're interested in theater that is on the edge."

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## Phone project adds personal touch

□ University telephone program reaches out and touches all new students to ease worries.

By Daralyn Trappe  
Emerald Associate Editor

More than 16,000 people attend the University each year, but two offices on campus make an effort to give individual attention to the questions and concerns of every po-

tential student.

It's a feat that takes about five months of every year to accomplish, but those involved say it is vital to recruitment and adds a personal touch to the red tape and bureaucracy.

The New Student Telephone Project, organized by the Offices of Admissions and Dean of Students, is staffed by eight upperclassmen who make a total of about 20,000 calls to people who have expressed an interest in applying or who have already applied.

Jason Halstead, publications and information services coordinator with the Office of the Dean of Students and adviser to the project, said the process begins in February and wraps up in June.

"The first two weeks at the beginning are recruitment calls to people who have, at sometime in the past, expressed an interest in the University of Oregon somehow, but haven't yet applied," he said.

"At that point, it's a lot of giving

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## WEATHER



You still might want to keep the lemonade handy. Wednesday's high reached 91 in Eugene-Springfield. Expect partly sunny skies today and the highs 85-90 with isolated late afternoon showers.

## SECURING HIS PLACE

Presidential hopeful Ross Perot will visit Olympia, Wa. next week to help deliver thousands of nominating petitions to secure a place on the November ballot.

Perot backers are holding 204 nominating conventions across the state on Sunday.

"When we started this thing, I was praying for 100 conventions and 100,000 signatures," spokeswoman Yvonne Conway said. "We've doubled the number of conventions; can we double the number of signatures?"

It takes only 200 valid signatures from registered voters to win a place on Washington's ballot.

## BRIEFLY

An Oregon State basketball player has pleaded innocent to charges of stealing a pizza at gunpoint April 3.

Junior forward Chad Scott, 22, was in court Tuesday. He faces an Aug. 24 trial on charges of first-degree robbery and unlawful use of a weapon.

Corvallis police said a Domino's Pizza driver was making a delivery at the house of Julius Young, an Oregon State football player, when he was ordered to hand over the pizza at gunpoint. Police said no money was taken.

Scott sat out of most of the 1991-92 basketball season because of poor grades.