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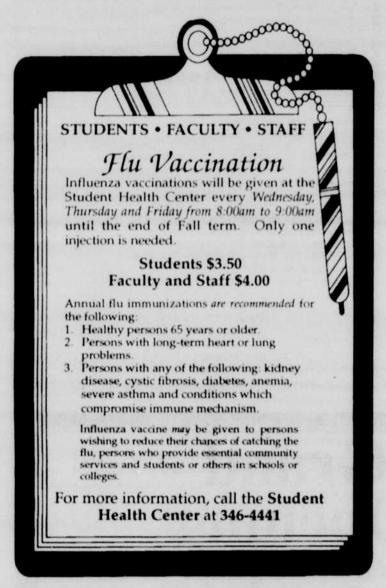


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BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

uing a program at the level approved by the Oregon State Legislature.

The governor's budget will go to the Legislature for approval in January and will likely see considerable revisions before the Houses produce their own budget

'Just as the governor proposes a budget, the Legislature will begin to dispose of some parts of it." Roberts said.

The budget cuts reflect the \$1.2 billion shortfall in the state's General Fund for the next biennium created by 1990's Ballot Measure 5.

Measure 5 modified property tax rates through gradual annual reductions. The state services budget is estimated at \$7 billion for 1993-95, but taxes will only provide \$6.4 billion.

Early this year, Roberts required all state agencies to reduce their budgets by 20 percent to compensate for the reduction in revenue for state ser-

The governor is required, by the state Constitution, to submit a budget proposal outlining allocation of existing resources in the General Fund.

In addition to that budget, Roberts included tax reform proposals that would alleviate cuts to human services she said she finds "unacceptable."

Roberts said total funding and long-term benefits of programs were considered before cuts were

"We have seized on every opportunity to improve services with a special emphasis on children and youth," Roberts said.

Roberts pointed out that the 17 percent drop in education funding is not accurate when total funding is considered. Education will actually operate at 90.4 percent of the current level when combined with local property taxes and state school support.

The higher education budget will be 16 percent below the current service level. Part of higher education's budget reduction came from efficiency and economy revisions

Higher education administration will be cut by 20 percent, yielding a savings of \$55 million. Organizational restructuring will eliminate the number of top-level leadership and administrative positions to streamline this area.

Faculty productivity will rise by 15 percent. The Dept. of Higher Education will require faculty members to teach an additional class or section per year and reduce their research activities

Tuition at Oregon's colleges and universities will go up 7 percent a year for resident under-graduates. Enrollment will likely drop 7 percent, Roberts said, because many students will not be able to afford the increased cost.

Roberts said she set aside \$4 million to waive tuition charges for low-income resident students because tuition increases diminish the accessibility of education.

'It is unlikely in my estimation that the Legislature will act early on tax reform. I don't think the Legislature is ready. and I don't believe the public is ready."

> Barbara Roberts, Oregon governor

The Scholarship Commission's Need Grant Program was given \$3.2 million in General Fund and will provide grants to 3,975 low-income students.

Roberts also said higher education's agency request budget originally included a 15 percent increase in tuition that was reduced to the 7 percent increase through increased faculty productivity, tightened residency rules, and the addition of \$10.9 million to the General Fund.

Both the Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the Pediatric Dentistry Registry Program will close. Roberts said she was reluctant to cut institutions completely and focused instead on trimming programs.

"Once you close an institution, it is very, very difficult to open that institution," Roberts said.

Additionally, the higher education budget will raise dental clinic fees, reduce agricultural research, and reduce the Child Development Rehabilitation Center's medical services.

Oregon's 16 community colleges will see a 10.1 percent drop from the current service level. State support and local property taxes will supplement \$228.4 million in unrestricted state grant-in-aid to community college. Roberts proposes using lottery funds to raise the service level to 95.1 percent of the current program level.

Roberts proposed a cigarette tax increase of 10 percent to raise \$44.2 million dedicated to health services and programs related to tobacco use. A beer and wine tax increase of 5 cents dedicated to treating alcohol and drug abuse was also pro-

Roberts said that despite all of the reductions and the proposed plans to compensate for lost revenue, a major tax overhaul is necessary

"It is unlikely in my estimation that the Legislature will act early on tax reform," Roberts said. "I don't think the Legislature is ready, and I don't believe the public is ready."

Roberts' budget recommends a tax system overhaul that reforms the property tax assessment system, minimizes loss of property tax revenue to schools and provides personal income tax relief.

The tax reform suggestions are vague by design. "We don't want to lock into a tax plan and have that become an issue," McCaig said. "The issue is whether Oregonians are ready to pass a tax plan that will give education stable funding."



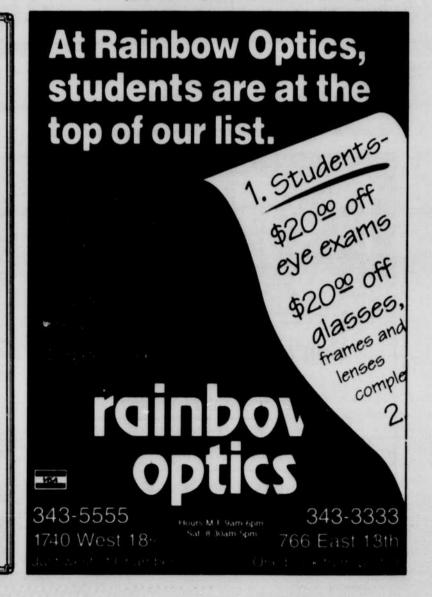
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