

House votes 234 - 200 to pass NAFTA

Erinn Bucklan
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

President Clinton pulled another rabbit out of a hat Wednesday night when the House adopted the North American Free Trade Agreement by a surprisingly large margin.

In the aftermath of the House vote of 234 - 200 to make North America one of the largest free trade zones in the world, University experts are split in what it means to the nation's economy.

"The approval of NAFTA provides a historic opportunity for freeing trade barriers with the largest countries immediately north and south of our borders," said Professor Joe Stone, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Many campus experts see NAFTA's approval as a dramatic play for the U.S. in the international economic market.

"The U.S. has been seen as the most protectionist nation on earth and the implementation of NAFTA will change that," said James Reinmuth, dean of the College of Business Administration.

"NAFTA shows that the U.S. is prepared to be a partner in the global economy."

Reinmuth views this weekend's economic summit in Seat-

Oregon senators announce support for NAFTA

By David Brotherton
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

As the Senate prepares to vote on the North American Free Trade Agreement, Oregon Sens. Bob Packwood and Mark Hatfield have announced their intentions to support the pact.

The House of Representatives approved the plan Wednesday by a vote of 234-200. NAFTA is intended to eliminate most tariffs and other trade barriers between the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The Senate may vote Saturday or early next week. Congress is set to begin its winter recess Nov. 22, but both legislative branches must reach a decision on the trade pact before either can adjourn.

Packwood, the highest-ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, which holds jurisdiction over trade issues, supports NAFTA because of its potential benefits to the Oregon

economy.

"I think the United States should be eager to compete and win in the global marketplace, and no state has shown its ability to do this better than Oregon," Packwood said. "Removing trade barriers with Mexico will reap benefits, for all evidence shows the economic well-being of Oregon depends on trade."

Hatfield has also advocated NAFTA's potential to benefit his state's economic base.

"The slowing down of Japan's and Germany's economies has enhanced the Mexican market potential," Hatfield said, "and our state also is the beneficiary of the Mexican consumer's desire for U.S. products."

The trade agreement is expected to encounter substantially less opposition in the Senate than in the House. If approved by the Senate and signed by President Clinton, NAFTA will take effect Jan. 1.

tle between U.S. and Asian leaders as strengthened by Clinton's win on NAFTA.

"It was the right thing to do not only for our economy but with respect to foreign policy as well," he said. Reinmuth speculated that without NAFTA's approval, Clinton would have had a more difficult time at the bargaining table this weekend.

Yet, throughout Wednesday

night's debating and frenzied lobbying to pass the agreement, the administration was accused of using political payoffs to gain votes.

"It all came down to Clinton having to do some heavy selling. He bought a lot of votes," said Steve Hacker, associate professor of the Labor Education and Research Center, and an opponent of NAFTA. "In the time of

budget austerity, it will come back to haunt him."

Hacker points to how issues important to labor and environmental groups were excluded in the NAFTA provisions.

"If you want to see the kernel of Clinton's anti-labor stance, look at the treaty's treatment of its property rights versus its provisions on human rights," continued Hacker.

Pocket Playhouse offers different version of classic

By Jason Jones
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Snow White will be appearing soon at a theater near you, but her story is not the one you may know through the Disney classic.

White As Snow, Red As Blood portrays a deeper, darker, more passionate, and more mythic rendition of Snow White that is closer to the original tale by the Brothers Grimm than most other modern renditions. The reliance on the original tale combined with fine script writing, experimental directing and dynamic performing makes for a new and engrossing version of a familiar story.

As the play begins, a young queen is sewing and pricks her finger. Three drops of blood fall on the snow, and she says to herself: "If only I had a child as white as snow and as red as blood and as black as the wood of my window frame."

The child is delivered (surprisingly quickly) and the saga of Snow White's life begins.

The good queen dies when Snow White is a baby, and the evil step-mother, Queen Evil, steps in. The evil queen is assisted by her magic mirror and by her conscience, who is known as "Herself." The three actors work as an ensemble to portray a sick and twisted woman with multiple personalities (all of them evil). Snow White escapes their evil clutches with the help of the good huntsman, however, and she finds her way to the salvation of the dwarves.

The use of light, sound and movement is essential to creating the mood of the play.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

• The public is invited to a big band swing dance Friday at Westmoreland Community Center, 1545 W. 22nd Ave.

Swing Shift will play at the center from 8 to 11 p.m. The event is alcohol and smoke free. Cost is \$4 per person.

• In celebration of Children's Book Week, the Oregon Shadow Theatre of Portland has scheduled a free performance of *The Green Bird: A Mexican Story* Saturday at Springfield Public Library.

The performance features shadow puppets, live narration and character voices and live music. The show lasts 45 minutes and begins at 11 a.m. For more information, call 726-2237.

• Prithivira Fernando, a University graduate student from Sri Lanka, will present a slide presentation on the nat-

ural history of Sri Lanka and the ecology of elephants Tuesday at a Lane County Audubon Society meeting.

Fernando has studied elephants for several years in Sri Lanka and will discuss wildlife in that country. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St.

• The United Way needs volunteers for the following positions: Santa field trip helper for Pearl Buck, for two hours on Dec. 14; librarian helper for Eugene 4J School District, one hour per week; intensive care host at McKenzie Willamette Hospital, four hours per day; Kitchen Assistant for American Red Cross, three hours per week; and letter writer for Ronning Foster Home, one hour per week. For more information, call the Volunteer Connection at 683-9000.

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