

Budget increase may aid education

Forecast: A projected gain is due to rising lottery sales

Colleen Pohl
Oregon Daily Emerald

The state budget forecast grew by more than \$30 million Monday, and higher education officials are perched waiting to make their sweep for any extra crumbs to add to the 1995-97 school budget.

State economist Paul Warner's new quarterly budget and economic forecast for 1995-97 predicts a \$32.6 million revenue increase, which is mostly due to projected increases in Oregon Lottery sales.

Of the \$32.6 million, higher education officials expect to get at least some for additional add-back funding for the 1995-97 budget. The system has already seen a \$130 million drop in state funding since 1989-91.

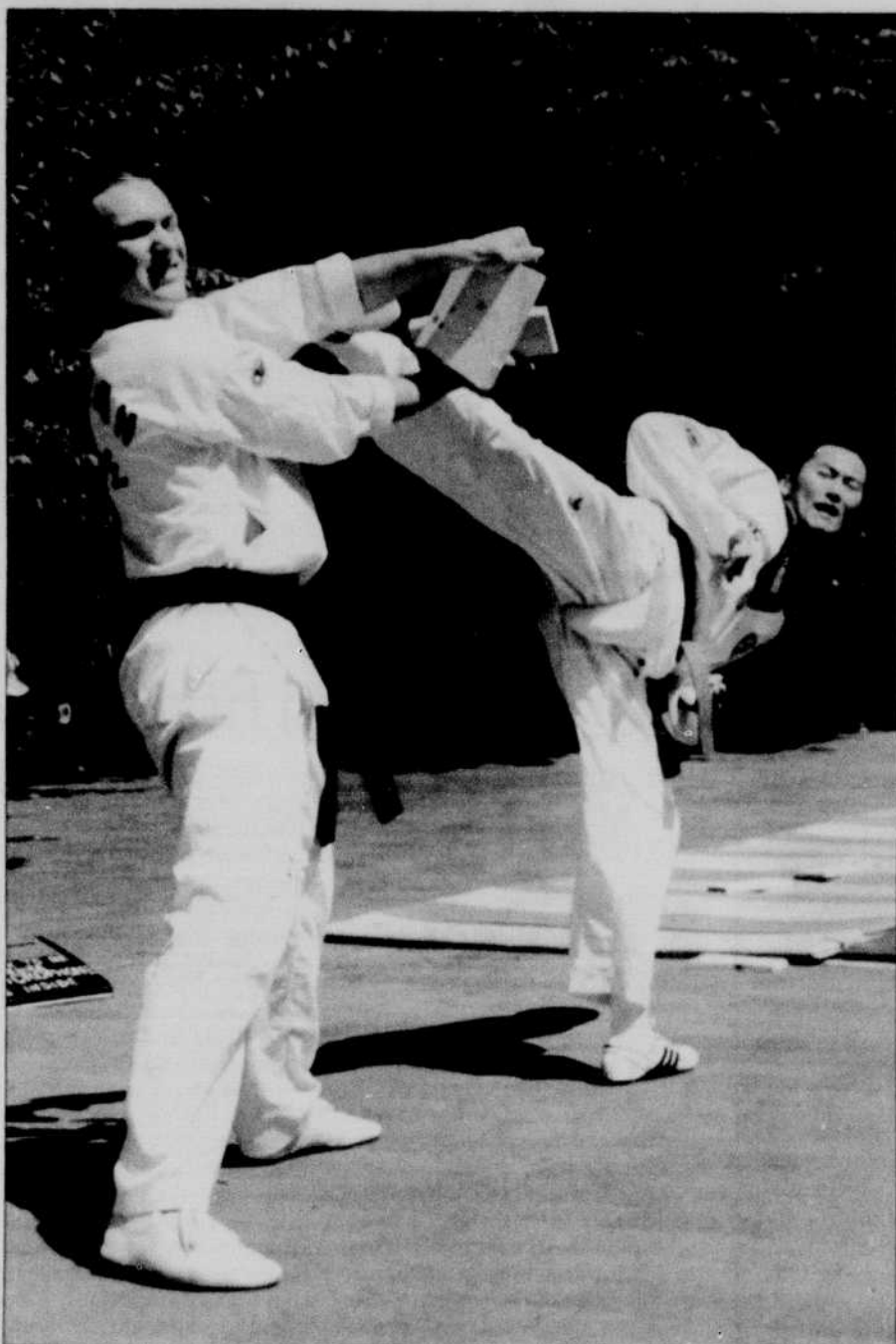
Another possible \$27 million was identified as available for add-back funds, which would bring the total to \$60 million for appropriation, said Randy MacDonald, University director of legislative and community relations.

The Legislature has targeted three areas to receive most of the add-back funds: higher education, public salaries and community mental health.

So far, the Oregon State System of Education (OSSHE) has received about \$28 million in add-back funds on top of Gov.

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Block it



Robert Kim, a junior business major who is also a brown belt in TaeKwanDo, kicks through a wooden board held by Jesse Donohue, a sophomore who is a black belt. The martial arts presentation in the courtyard of the EMU Monday was organized by the Asian Student Union.

MATT STIFFLER/EMERALD

OPEU strike ends; workers return despite no settlement

Bargaining: Talks between union, negotiators resumes Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Samantha Martin
Oregon Daily Emerald

Monday was the first day back to work for the striking state employees represented by the Oregon Public Employees Union.

Although no agreement on a new contract has been reached yet, bargaining will resume again at 9 a.m. Wednesday between state negotiators and the OPEU.

One returning striker said she had mixed feelings about returning to work under rather uncertain circumstances.

Brenda Johnson, head cook at Hamilton dining hall and OPEU member of 11 years, said she was glad to be back at work, but unhappy that the union was back without a settlement.

"I'm not too happy about it," Johnson said. "We came back without a settlement and we lost a week's worth of pay. It's hard to come back today knowing we didn't achieve anything yet."

Johnson said should another strike occur during phase two of the OPEU Strike Back campaign, she would cross the line.

"I went out once; I was willing to stay out for the duration," Johnson said. "I'd hate to do that, but I can't go out again, it's a hardship — financial and mental."

"Right now we don't know where we stand," Johnson said. "Did we lose a whole week's work for nothing?"

Johnson was a participant during the 1987 OPEU strike as well. The treatment from managers toward striking employees was different then, Johnson said.

"The strike in '87 was not like this," Johnson said. "We didn't have the backing of our supervisors then."

The returning employees brought relief and a smile to at least one supervisor Monday.

Elva Koepp, food manager at the central kitchen in Carson, said she was definitely glad to see the

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Speaker says process in Middle East is failing

Peace: Mohammad Al-Asi criticizes the way Israel's government treats Muslims

Natasha Shepard
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process of the last three years is not progressing toward a solution, said the Washington, D.C. Islamic Center leader at the EMU Monday.

Mohammad Al-Asi's speech, "The Palestinians and Israelis: The True Story," addressed the need for Jewish people to separate the politics of Israel from their religion and denounce what he called injustice against Muslims in Israel and the recently designated Palestinian state.

"We are living in a world in

which there are many problems which are coming to a solution, a winding down," he said, using South Africa and Ireland as examples of disputes that are being solved. "(But) even though there has been a so-called peace process (with Israel and Palestine) the problem is not moving in a direction that will spell out a solution to this issue."

He spoke to about 40 community members and University students, including members of the Jewish Student Union and University Hillel House.

The Israeli government is brutalizing the Muslim people unimpeded and supported by international governments and the Jewish people, Al-Asi said.

"I want to underline the fact that the American Jewry, as a whole, have not taken a position

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GOOD MORNING

► The deadline is drawing closer for the May 16 election. Voters who want to influence the statewide election should turn in their ballots to the Lane County Elections Office at 135 E. 6th Ave. by 8 p.m. today.

Voters will decide on using lottery money for education and tightening residency requirements for legislators on the state ballot.

Locally, voters will decide on whether or not to open Willamette Street to cars, approve a \$39 million bond measure to build a new juvenile detention center across from Autzen Stadium and approve a \$42.8 million bond measure for Lane Community College to build classrooms and other facilities.

► Queer Pride Week, sponsored by the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance, begins today and offers a slate of activities for the University community.

Today Joel Tan, a Filipino, gay poet and performance artist, will speak from 3 to 5 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room. He will discuss race, class and his own Mongrel identity.

Suzanne Pharr will deliver a speech titled "Queer and Present Danger: What's Wrong with the Right?" on Wednesday in the Gerlinger Lounge. A reception will begin at 5 p.m.

Also, on Wednesday representatives from Womenspace will discuss the Battered Lesbian Intervention project at 3 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room.

A Queerfest will take place in the EMU courtyard from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday featuring music, speakers and entertainment for University students, faculty and staff.

► TACOMA (AP) — Margaret Gaspari, a staff biologist at Point Defiance Zoo who teaches bat appreciation to scores of school-

Just a Reminder

Ballots need to be received by the Lane County Elections office by 5 p.m. today.

EMERALD

children and zoo visitors, is conducting a bat census this week around the state.

She and other bat conservationists are concerned the species' global population is decreasing because of humans destroying or disturbing habitats.

Bat-watching is an underappreciated hobby, Gaspari said. A good place to hunker down to watch bats is at dusk, near still water like a pond.