

NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Eugene police search for suspect



The Eugene Police Department is searching for a suspect that may be connected in a series of local tavern robberies. The suspected vehicle used in the robberies is described as a late 1970s to early 1980s Chevrolet Lumina or similar style small pick-up truck. The truck is a light color with dark wheels and blackwall tires, dark side-view mirrors, and single round headlights. The suspect is described as a white male, late twenties to early thirties, 5 foot 10 inches in height, brown shoulder length hair, a medium build and a "gaunt looking" face.

Police have reason to believe the suspect may be involved in as many as eight tavern robberies in the Eugene area. Anyone with suspect information is asked to contact Detective Pat Ryan at 687-5175 or the Eugene Police Department at 687-5121.

Two women vie to be OSU's first female president

CORVALLIS (AP) — Two women are among three finalists to succeed John Byrne as president of Oregon State University.

Byrne's resignation is effective this December. The state higher education board is expected to announce a new president Thursday.

The finalists include Rita R. Colwell, president of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute, and Gladys Styles Johnston, chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Also vying for the position is Paul G. Risser, president of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Oregon has two women among the presidents of its eight public colleges and universities — Betty Youngblood at Western Oregon and Judith Ramaley at Portland State University.

Democrats battle balanced budget



WASHINGTON (AP) — For weeks Democrats pounded in unison on a Republican budget they branded heartless. But team spirit only goes so far.

As the compromising begins this week, Democrats are struggling with each other over what kind of balanced budget — if any — could be acceptable to a party traditionally identified with government activism and protecting society's most vulnerable.

Congressional Republicans last week passed a stringent fiscal plan that would cut taxes by \$245 billion, squeeze huge savings from programs for the young, the old, the elderly and the disabled, and balance the budget by 2002. President Clinton and some Democratic lawmakers are shooting for a compromise that better reflects Democratic priorities, but within that seven-year time frame.

When Democratic deficit hawks offered alternative seven-year balanced budgets last week, Democratic leaders voted no, though the plans would have eliminated the GOP tax cut and cushioned social programs.

Detroiters volunteer to fire proof city on Devil's Night

DETROIT (AP) — Hundreds of vacant buildings were razed so they couldn't be set on fire and thousands volunteered to patrol the streets Monday for this year's drive against the destructive Devil's Night tradition.

"The primary thing is to keep the fires away, to protect lives and property," said Cliff Russell, spokesman for Mayor Dennis Archer.

For years, the night before Halloween has been celebrated as Devil's Night in Detroit, a night of arson fires in trash piles and houses.

Canada on the verge of possible division



MONTREAL (AP) — With all Canada on edge, Quebec voters cast ballots Monday in a secession referendum that could split one nation and create a new one.

Suspense spread from coast to coast as 5 million Quebecers streamed into voting stations to decide whether they want independence. The final polls that concluded the election were too close to call.

"Quebec holds its breath," headlined *Le Devoir*, a Montreal daily newspaper.

Whatever the outcome, the vote will leave deep scars, both in mostly French-speaking Quebec and across Canada. Tens of thousands of Canadians from other provinces joined marches, rallies and vigils beseeching Quebec to stay, and bitterness seemed inevitable if the vote goes for independence.

South African case ignites racial tension

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — With hints of rebellion in the military and thinly veiled threats of right-wing violence, the case of Magnus Malan has ignited strong feelings in all races in South Africa.

The decision to prosecute Malan, the country's defense minister from 1981-90, for apartheid-era murders will test the depth of national reconciliation.

The case also raises serious questions such as: Is President Nelson Mandela's government sufficiently secure after 18 months in power to prosecute senior apartheid leaders? And are white South Africans, who retain disproportionate economic and military power, willing to accept seeing their former leaders in the dock?

The government announced Sunday that Malan and 10 other former officers will be arrested Thursday for allegedly helping set up a hit squad accused of killing 13 relatives.

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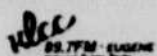


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