

Oregon Daily Emerald



Weather forecast

Today
Rain
High 47, Low 44

Thursday
Showers
High 43, Low 38

Volleyball looks to next year

After a disappointing season, the Ducks choose to focus on the team's high points / PAGE 5

Spark from the bench

Lindsey Dion has redefined her role as one of the Ducks' top threats / PAGE 5

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Eugene, Oregon

Funding increase of \$73 million proposed

The proposed higher-ed budget keeps the tuition freeze but comes up short for the Oregon University System

By Teri Meeuwsen
Oregon Daily Emerald

When Gov. John Kitzhaber released his proposed state budget on Tuesday, he created a \$73 million increase in funding for state colleges and universities.

While the increase is not enough for the Oregon University System to run its proposed \$115 million budget model, it will provide a solid foundation for it, University President Dave Frohnmayer said.

"The basics of the model are fully funded

with the proposed budget," he said. "We're starting off in a better position than we have been in a number of years."

The governor's proposed budget will continue to freeze in-state undergraduate tuition and help make the state university system more competitive and market-driven with the 1.75 percent increase from last biennium, Kitzhaber said. It will also provide funding for creating closer partnerships between local community colleges and the state university system, he said.

"This budget offers concrete proposals for meeting our challenges," Kitzhaber said. "It makes significant advances in our public schools, colleges and universities."

Approximately \$8 million will target enrollment at state universities, according to the proposed budget. Universities will be able to target needed professions — such as teachers and engineers — and community colleges will target new students who need

"This budget offers concrete proposals for meeting our challenges."

John Kitzhaber
Governor of Oregon

Turn to BUDGET, Page 4

TOBACCO ON CAMPUS



University students Megan Hoffman and Amy Wolf enjoy an increasingly expensive smoking habit at a restaurant in the campus area.

Scott Burnett/Emerald

Cigarette prices rise after settlement

By Kristina Rudinkas
Oregon Daily Emerald

Smokers around the campus area need to save more than their pennies to pay for the recent cigarette price increase announced Nov. 23 by Philip Morris USA, the nation's largest tobacco company, and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

The 45 cent increase per pack is the largest price hike ever. Cigarette prices in the Eugene area now range from \$3.50 to \$3.70 for major brands like Camel and Marlboro.

Neither Philip Morris USA or R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. offered an explanation for the price increase.

The increase follows closely behind the recent \$206 billion tobacco settle-

ment with 46 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. The amount will be paid by five tobacco companies over 25 years to help settle Medicaid costs for treating sick smokers.

Smokers around the campus area were dismayed about the increase, but most said it would not change their habit.

"The tobacco industry has been reaming us for years, and now they are reaming us again," said student Josh Howard, who smoked for five years and prefers Camel Reds. Howard said he tried to quit back but hasn't stopped altogether because he's addicted. He's tried to quit cold turkey five times.

Kristina Hannon, an English major,

hates the fact that she smokes. She said if the price reached \$5, she might try to roll her own cigarettes. But she won't start buying cartons, which are less expensive than purchasing individual packs.

"I go through cartons way too quickly," she said. "I give them away more easily."

Hannon said she's been smoking for five years and will stand in the wind and rain to indulge in a quick nicotine fix.

She's even tried to quit once for six days.

"I was an emotional wreck," Hannon

Turn to SMOKING, Page 3

Bomb scare necessitates evacuations

A sealed envelope left in President Frohnmayer's office by a man who made threats was found to contain only papers

By James Scripps
Oregon Daily Emerald

The west half of Johnson Hall was evacuated Tuesday after a man delivered a suspicious package to University President Dave Frohnmayer's office and made threatening remarks to the receptionist, Eugene Police Sgt. Rick Gilliam said.

After receiving the sealed package — a large manila envelope later found to contain papers — at about 11:40 a.m., a receptionist from the office called the Office of Public Safety. After a preliminary look, public safety officers called the Eugene Police Department. The Explosives Disposal Unit was dispatched to the scene.

"OPS immediately evacuated the west half of the building when they determined that the rest of it was not in immediate danger," Lt. Joan Saylor said.

About six people were evacuated from the president's office, and as many as 20 people left the building, Saylor said.

Eugene Police and public safety officials kept the west half of the building closed for about an hour.

OPS took the extra precaution because of previous incidents involving the man who delivered the package to the office, Saylor said.

"We had another incident in August when a worker from another area on campus felt threatened by the man and called us," she said. She added that the man's name, which police and public safety officials are not disclosing, was on the package.

The man will not be charged with any crime, but police are hoping to contact him to "find out what his intentions were," Gilliam said.

Conflicting EPD and OPS reports make it unclear whether the man is registered as a student at the University.

Frohnmayer was out of town when the incident occurred but arrived shortly after. He praised the actions of officials.

"It's always disconcerting when something like this happens," he said. "I'm happy that no one got hurt. I'm also happy about how the Office of Public Safety responded and how my secretaries responded."