

# Oregon Daily Emerald



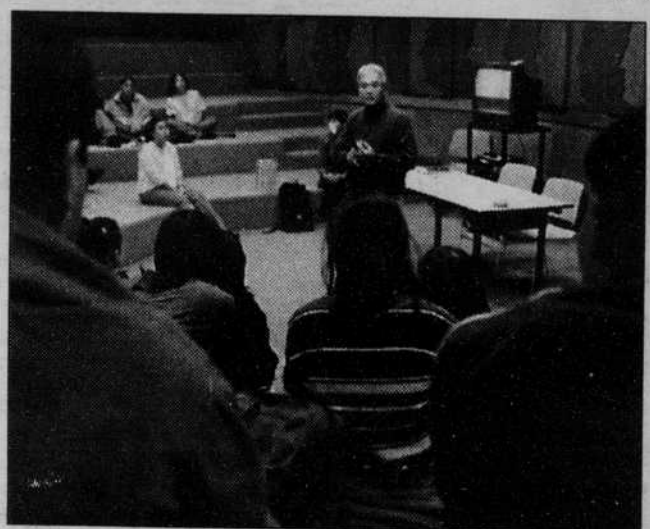
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**Weather forecast**  
Today Cloudy  
High 56 Low 42  
Friday Shows, sun  
High 58, Low 40

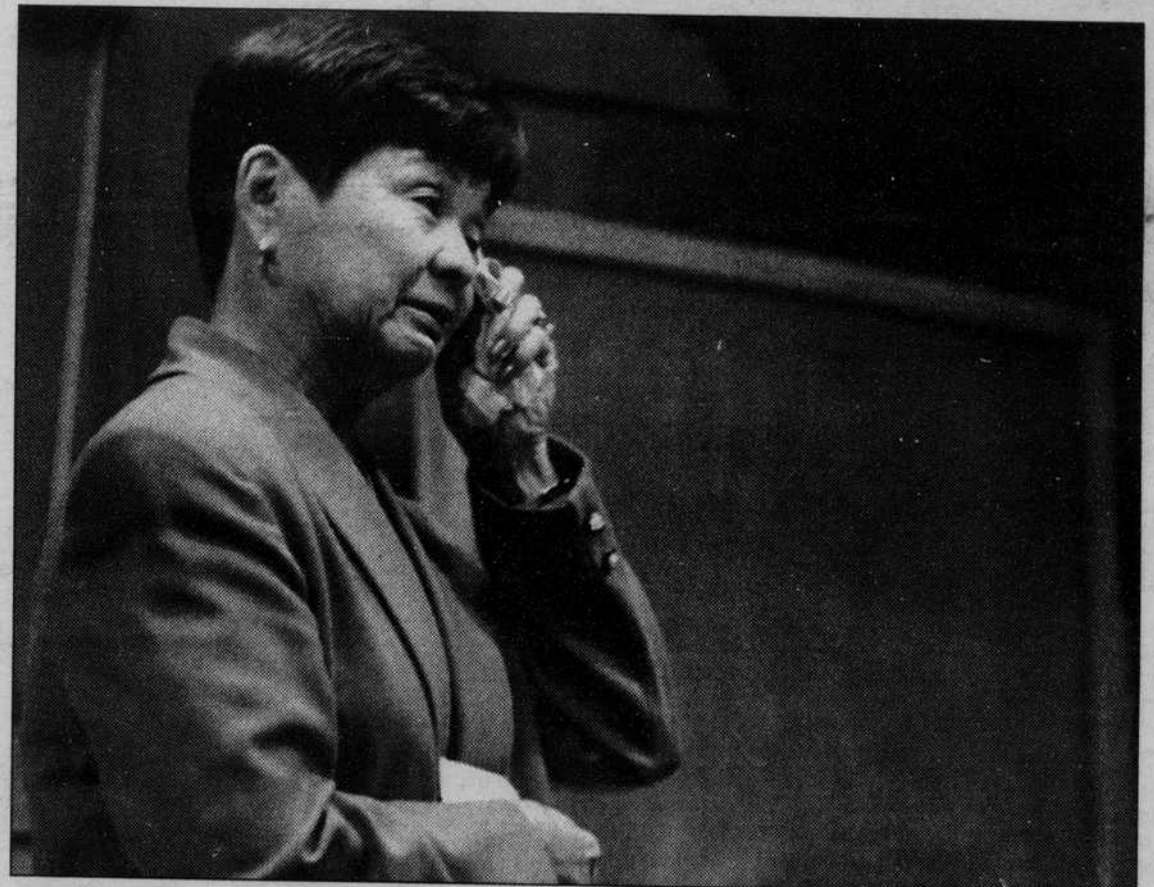
**Gaining 'Momentum'**  
*The dance department's annual spring student dance concert, titled 'Momentum,' showcases the works of student choreographers / PAGE 10*

**Harker bows out**  
*After just one season, forward Skouson Harker announces plans to transfer to a Division II school / PAGE 11*

## from Prejudice to Positivity



*Amanda Cowan/Emerald*  
Al Nakatani of Maui, Hawaii, talks to the crowd at the Ben Linder Room.



*Amanda Cowan/Emerald*  
Jane Nakatani wipes a tear away as she speaks about her family's tragedy Wednesday night at the Ben Linder Room.

### Tragedy inspires a couple to face their prejudices and help others learn

**By Erin Snelgrove**  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*  
Having lost one son to shooting and two sons to AIDS, speakers Al and Jane Nakatani shared their personal tragedy with the University community last night.  
At a workshop titled "LGBT Issues in APA Society: The Personal Story of the Nakatani Family," Al and Jane talked about their experiences, not to gain pity but to promote change, they said. Their goal is to help people realize the value of all human lives.  
"I'm sharing my story for multiple reasons," Al said. "I want to teach people about death and dying, about parenting gay and les-

bian children, and most importantly about the importance of acceptance."  
Two of the Nakatanis' children, Glen and Guy, were homosexual. Instead of supporting her sons, Jane said she initially shunned them. She felt ashamed of her children.  
"I was a homophobic mother," Jane said. "I told gay jokes and I made fun of pride parades. When I found out I had two gay sons, I couldn't believe it. I thought being gay was their choice, but I now know otherwise."  
Shocked at their sons' revelations of their sexual orientation, the Nakatanis faced an additional trauma when the middle son, Greg, was shot in 1986. From what Al and Jane understand, their son was killed because of a meaningless argument with a stranger. His assailant was never found.  
"When Greg was killed, I realized I had been a denigrator," Al said. "I had pinned all my hopes on Greg—that he would get married, have children and carry on the family name. I realized then that I had devalued the lives of my other two sons."  
Glenn, the eldest child, died of AIDS before Al and Jane had the opportunity to make amends, making Guy the last surviving son. But Guy did not have much time left.  
Learning from their past mistakes, Al and Jane accepted Guy wholeheartedly, having him live in their home for the last two years of his life. During that peri-

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## Higher ed budget passes in Senate

*The \$2.3 billion budget is \$87.6 million above operating expenses*

**By Teri Meeuwse**  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*  
Except for one voter, the Oregon Senate placed the higher education budget in the hands of Senate President Brady Adams, R-Grants Pass, to pass on to Gov. John Kitzhaber.  
"This will send a very strong message to the governor," Adams said.  
The budget carries \$87.6 million more than its basic operating budget and \$14.6 million above the governor's budget.  
The lone dissenter, Sen. Avel Gordly, D-Multnomah, said she voted no because higher education needs full funding, not just partial funding.  
"I consider myself a champion of education, from pre-K-12 through higher ed," she said. "I advocate higher ed, but it must be done in the right way."

Sen. Susan Castillo, D-Eugene, said while there is a concern about fully funding higher education, the Senate has made a strong investment.  
"We have made a good down payment on higher ed," she said. "Higher education is tied to the quality of life and it has been cut since the implementation of Measure 5. This will give them good support."  
The full \$2.3 billion budget will fund the new budget model, a new system that will help keep student money on campus, make the university system's seven universities more accountable and encourage program and campus improvement.  
The budget model will also allow the university system to take a market-driven approach to educating students.  
"We don't want Oregon students to be turned off by a low-funded university system,"

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## Senators' feelings mixed about Dixon's future

*Senator Wylie Chen calls Dixon an asset and says decision is Dixon's*

**By Jason George**  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*  
Student government leaders were in disagreement Wednesday concerning Michael Dixon's future on the senate.  
Student Senator Dixon was sentenced in Lane County Court Monday to 18 months probation, 20 days of road work crew and a \$500 fine for two counts of felony burglary of more than \$5,000 worth of property from the Bean Complex.  
In another incident, Dixon, 19, pleaded guilty May 10 to stealing more than \$50 of phone services from the University. He has entered into a correspondence program until Dec. 13. If he commits a crime before Dec. 13, he will be sentenced for the phone service theft, according to the district attorney's office.  
Dixon did not return a phone call from the Emerald.  
Dixon's status was not discussed at the Student Senate meeting Wednesday.  
Senate President Michael Olson continued to support Dixon and said on Tuesday he will "not seek his removal," but other senators were quick to disas-

sociate themselves from Olson's stance.  
"I hope people do not believe that the statements of one senator represent the entire senate," Senator Autumn DePoe said. "The question I have to ask myself is, how long does it take to forgive? I am really torn. I feel like it is his decision or the students', whichever comes first."  
Senator Jamila Singleton said she, like Olson, still supports Dixon staying on the senate.  
"My opinion is that Michael has proven himself as a student leader," she said. "To penalize him by asking him to resign would be ignorant."  
Senator Eric Pfeiffer said his feelings on the issue have changed. He is still against the Emerald's conducting background checks on student-elected officials, which is how Dixon's charges were discovered.  
"I think what he has been trying to do is change his behavior. This is good," he said. "But I have to admit that I have to go against many of my constituents and say that I am disappointed. I would like to see the issue brought up at the next senate meeting instead of us all agreeing that we support Michael as a person."  
Senator and ASUO Presi-

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