

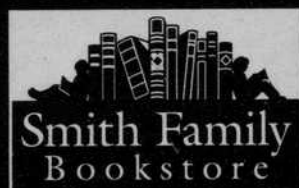
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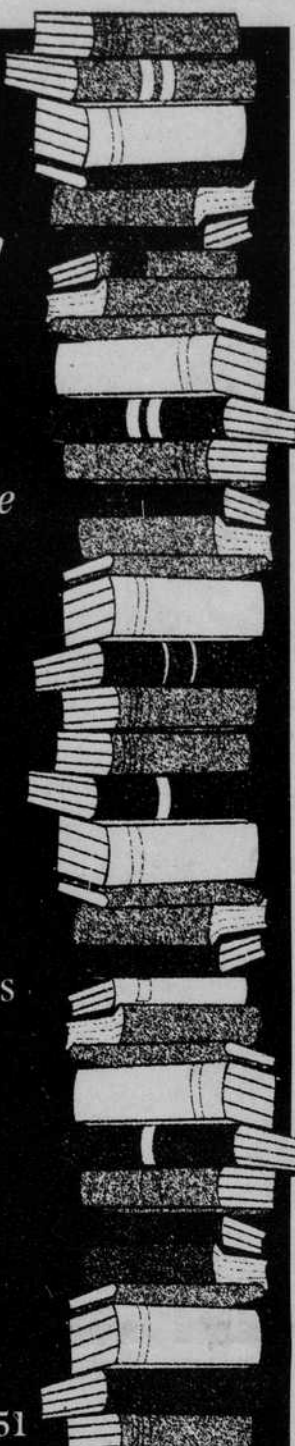
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## Bridge

continued from page 1A

Larsen said. "We have a lot of finish work around the edges, but we're very close to being functionally done."

Larsen's best estimate in September 1998 was that the project would be finished in January 2000 if all went well. He now predicts the project will last another two to three weeks and will finish under deadline.

City Councilor Bobby Lee, whose district includes the Ferry Street Bridge area, said he has been dealing with concerns about the bridge since he was an undergraduate at the University eight years ago.

"If the Ferry Street Bridge were to come down in an earthquake,

the local economy would be shut down," Lee said. "I strongly believe that you have to reinvest in infrastructure. This was a good investment and a worthwhile project."

During construction, the 49-year-old bridge could not accommodate the nearly 64,000 vehicles that cross it each day, and as a result city officials urged commuters to seek alternative routes.

Lee said the most common complaints he receives come from residents in the Ferry Street Bridge area concerned traffic increases in their neighborhood.

"We need to let people know that they can't drive through neighborhoods to avoid the Ferry Street Bridge traffic," Lee said.

Although construction is winding to a halt, commuters can still get stuck in the occasional traffic jam. Sophomore MacGregor

Shaw, who lives in the Chase Village apartment complex near Autzen Stadium, crosses the Ferry Street Bridge on his way to class.

"When there is construction going on in the area I try to leave about ten to 15 minutes earlier than I normally would," Shaw said. "Even though traffic is not as bad as it used to be, I'll be happy when it's finally finished."

Lee said he has seen a sharp decrease in complaints lately because construction is nearly finished.

"Most people don't complain any more," Lee said. "They just don't use the bridge."

For all the pain and suffering Eugene residents went through to enjoy the \$30 million project, Lee said he thinks it was all worth it.

"Yes there are headaches and problems," Lee said. "But when you look at the big picture, it is the right thing to do."

## Lane county

continued from page 1A

State of the County Address.

After introducing his wife and children, who were present along with nearly 200 other people, Green stressed the importance of family and highlighted the board's achievements during the past year.

"Let's all continue to work together to achieve the prize — a Lane County that is better for families today than yesterday. A better Lane County tomorrow than today," Green said.

After Green's comments, the board elected Commissioner Peter Sorenson to serve as chair during the 2000-2001 year and Commissioner Anna Morrison to vice chair. Both are one-year leadership positions on the board, a five-member panel that legislates and administers county government.

Among the county services that Green mentioned, health and family services topped the list.

This year, the county received grants from the state and the U.S. Department of Health and Human



Catharine Kendall Emerald

Lane County Board of Commissioners Chair, Bobby Green, delivered the State of the County Address to a full crowd in Harris Hall Wednesday morning.

Services to create county health programs, said Patricia Rogers, director of the Commission on Children and Families.

Rogers said one program to be expanded by the grants is a "community safety net," which will be composed of community members helping families resolve conflicts and avert crises.

Green's chief goal for the

board's next year was to listen more attentively and respond to families.

"My specific challenge is that for every month in the new year, every county department and each county commissioner documents and describes an example that proves that you have listened and responded to Lane County families," Green said.

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1:00-1:50					Kick Box Aerobics Instructor's rotate
2:00-2:50	New! Classes start January 5th!				
4:00-4:50					
5:00-5:50	Floor Aerobics Melissa	Body Sculpt Nina	Floor Aerobics Kat	Body Sculpt Nina	
6:00-6:50	Kick Box Aerobics Melissa	Intermediate Step Lindsey	Kick Box Aerobics Kat	Intermediate Step Lindsey	

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