

# Feminist Fair

## Live Music

Culottes & Shelakattack  
11-12 pm

## Stand-up Comedy

Lynn Sconyers  
12:30 pm

## Book Signing

Stone Soup Cartoonist Jan Eliot  
Signing her new book "You Can't Say  
Boobs on Sunday"

And much more

TODAY!

EMU Amphitheater 11-3 pm

— Fund Raising Event for Planned Parenthood —

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# Gore criticized for silence

By Landon Hall  
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Seeing a chance to put Al Gore on the spot when he brings his presidential campaign to Oregon, rival George W. Bush and two Republican senators from the Pacific Northwest on Thursday criticized the vice president for not taking a clear stand on breaching dams on the Snake River.

"My opponent ought to take a position on this important issue," Bush said in an interview with KGW-TV in Portland. "And the fact that he will not may indicate what kind of president he will be."

Republicans Slade Gorton of Washington and Gordon Smith of Oregon took to the Senate floor to also call on Gore to speak his mind on a proposal to remove four dams on the Snake River.

"He's quite comfortable telling the people of South Carolina what flag to fly over their statehouse," Gorton said. "But when it comes to an issue of vital importance to our regional economy, the vice president pretends that he hasn't made up his mind when I fear he has."

Gore will stop here Friday morning to give a speech at Portland Community College. About 150 students and their families will attend the invitation-only gathering, where Gore plans to focus on his plans for preserving Social Security.

"Al Gore is coming to discuss issues facing working families," said David Chai, spokesman for the vice president's Oregon campaign.

Oregon has voted Democratic in the last three presidential elections, but Gore and Bush are in a dead heat in the polls.

Retirement has become a divisive issue already in the campaign, but assisted suicide and dam-breaching are more pressing issues for Oregonians. And so far Gore isn't touching them.

A bill in Congress would block the Death With Dignity Act, Oregon's groundbreaking law that allows the terminally ill to take their own lives with help from a doctor's prescription.

Democrat Ron Wyden has threatened a filibuster to stop the legislation, while his friend Gordon Smith joined his fellow Republicans and turned against the bill.

The dam-breaching issue is just as thorny for Gore. Environmentalists and some biologists say breaching four dams on the Snake River would boost survival rates of salmon, but others say that would threaten their livelihoods.

Gov. John Kitzhaber, who has had a chilly relationship with Gore, is in favor of breaching and wants Gore to take a stand on the issue.

The Democratic Party leadership in Oregon wants Gore to weigh in, even if only to call for

further study. The longer he stays out of the fray, the more Bush can claim that Gore is waffling on the subject.

"What the American people want is a leader who doesn't try to take polls and focus groups to decide an issue," Bush said Thursday.

"I believe that we should not breach the dams in Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington," the Texas governor added. "We can figure out ways to use our technologies to enhance the salmon, while understanding the human needs, the human concerns and the benefits that those dams bring to Eastern Oregon."

"We can have our power, and there's many things we can do short of destroying our energy infrastructure," Smith said.

Gore is under pressure from all sides. A coalition of environmental groups is also urging him to state his views on National Forest policies, such as whether he supports the logging of old-growth forest.

The environmental groups have invited Gore to speak at a rally in Pioneer Courthouse Square, but he is not expected to attend.

"We see a public commitment as essential for Al Gore to pick up progressive voters in the West," said Donald Fontenot of the Cascadia Forest Alliance.



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## Join the campus award-winning newspaper

The Oregon Daily Emerald is now accepting applications for the following positions on next year's news staff:

### APPLICATION DEADLINE: TODAY

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Questions? Call 346-5511

### Also hiring for summer term

The Oregon Daily Emerald is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to a culturally diverse workplace.

## Grants

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organized its own effort in conjunction with that of the OSA and contributed roughly 500 of those letters.

Despite having been asked for \$670,000, the Emergency Board released only \$260,000 for the grant. John Wykoff, communications director with the OSA, said that because enrollment in Oregon colleges and universities has been increasing, this amount was just enough to push coverage up to the set goal of 82 percent of students.

"We were hoping to exceed that a little in the interim, but we didn't," Wykoff said.

At its inception in 1971, the program was intended to cover a much higher percentage of a student's cost of education than it does now, OSAC spokesman Gene Evans said. The program was set up to cover no more than 50 percent of the expenses, but over time the percentage has continued to decrease, and right now coverage is about 11 or 12 percent.

The real issue that proponents for increased educational funding are pushing, however, is not how much is covered, but how many students receive aid. Out of 76,180 students in Oregon who meet the requirements for the Need Grant, 13,593 come out with nothing from the fund.

"There are people who qualify, but who aren't able to get it," ASUO State Affairs coordinator Arlie Adkins said.

Whether a student comes out with money from the Need Grant is based on when he or she applies for financial aid with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Generally, students are encouraged to apply for the FAFSA at the beginning of the year.

"It is a first come, first serve basis," Wykoff said. "If you apply too late, you're out of luck ... You might be eligible, but you won't get a grant."

The Emergency Board is not the only group that provides money for the Need Grant; money comes

from the federal government and the Oregon Education Endowment, as well.

Even though the Emergency Board has distributed what it will for this year, that does not mean the fight for more money is over. OSAC and OSA will continue to ask the Legislature to provide enough funds to help all low-income students in the state.

The Oregon Need Grant is an issue at every legislative session, Adkins said.

OSA plans to work with potential legislators during the summer, Wykoff said, educating them about both the Oregon Need Grant and other related issues, such as

**“If you apply too late, you're out of luck ... You might be eligible, but you won't get a grant.”**

**John Wykoff**  
communications director  
OSA

child-care support for students.

OSAC plans to ask the Legislature in January for a "more full funding of the program," Evans said, so that coverage can reach 15 percent of the education cost for students. It also is looking into making money available year-round so that if students decide after the priority date that they are going to attend school, they will still be able to get grant funds.

The issue's importance reaches beyond student groups. The office of Oregon University System Chancellor Joe Cox is in favor of placing more funds into the Oregon Need Grant, OUS spokesman Philip Bransford said.

Bransford said that as Oregon's economy moves from one centered on natural resources to one that relies on highly trained workers, the state needs to make sure students are being given the opportunity to be educated so the state can keep up.

"If Oregon is going to maintain its competitiveness and economic health ... [it's] going to have to provide access to higher education," he said.



Collage of newspaper front pages from the Oregon Daily Emerald, showing various headlines and photos.