

# An independent newspaper Oregon Daily Emerald



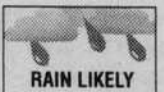
**Let the games begin**

Both Oregon teams are set for the intense action of the Pac-10. **INSIDE SECTION C**

**Beyond Baja**

Over-the-border travel tips for the low-budget adventurer in this week's Pulse. **INSIDE SECTION B**

**WEATHER TODAY**



high 45, low 30

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

## Frohnmayer advises of planned tuition hike

The University President deems Gov. Kitzhaber's proposed higher education budget 'not satisfactory'

By Andrew Adams  
Oregon Daily Emerald

University President Dave Frohnmayer came before the University Senate on Wednesday afternoon to discuss Gov. John Kitzhaber's proposed higher education budget.

The budget proposal recommends \$94.3 million less than what the Oregon University System requested for the 2001-2003 funding biennium and has left many administrators and educators worried the state's universities will be left scrambling to cover holes in their programs.

Senate President and English Professor James Earl introduced Frohnmayer by saying reports of the budget situation have left an atmosphere of "upcoming crisis" hanging over the University.

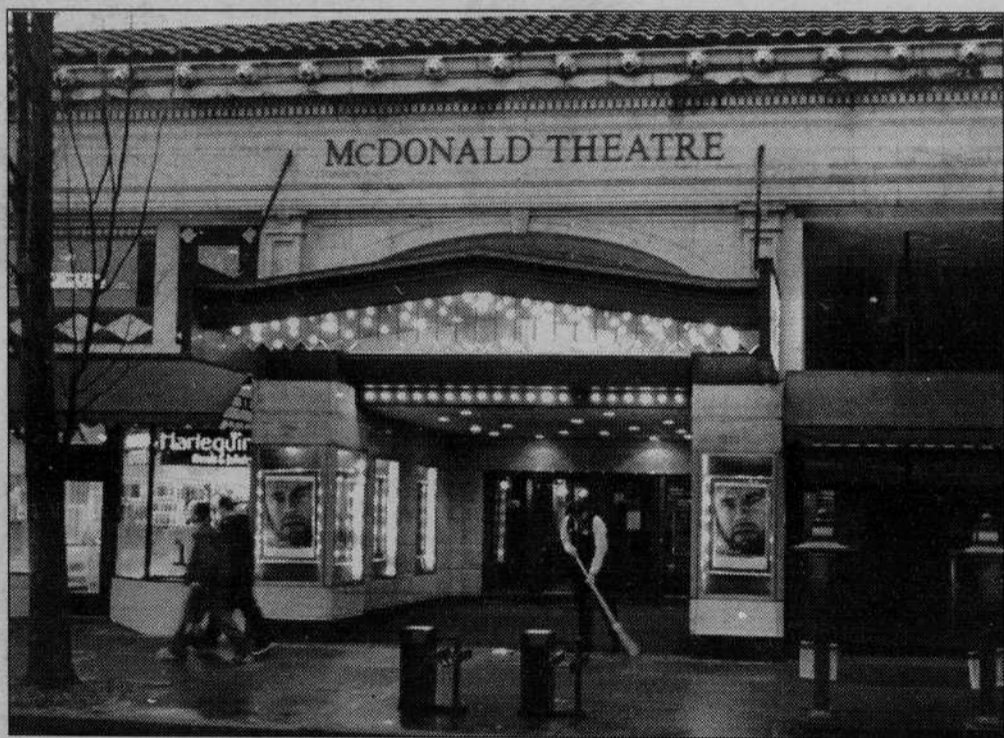
Frohnmayer began his speech by saying painting an accurate picture of the budget at this early stage is like "nailing



Laura Smit Emerald

During Wednesday's University Senate meeting at Willamette Hall, President Frohnmayer explains what a funding model looks like for both the University of Oregon and the state as a whole.

Turn to Budget, page 6A



Adam Amato Emerald

The old and the young walk away from the closing McDonald Theatre as cinema employee Brent Simon sweeps the sidewalk in front of the doomed long-time city landmark.

## Last of the old-time theaters

The McDonald Theatre, an historic landmark, ends its 75-year run with a final showing of 'Cast Away'

By Darren Freeman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the final time, Regal Cinemas employees will tonight pour corn kernels into McDonald Theatre's glass popcorn popper, set nachos in the three-tiered heating tray and project a film on the wide screen.

Regal Cinemas, which has recently experienced financial troubles, has cut the theater loose. The last movie showing will be tonight at 9:55 p.m.; the last film: Cast Away.

Since the closure was announced earlier this week, the theater has experienced a boom in business, according to theater General Manager Elizabeth Becker.

"It's amazing how many people are upset this isn't going to be a theater anymore," she said.

It is still uncertain if Eugene's most ornate the-

ater will find its way back into business, though there is already one prospect.

Ray Sewell, owner of the nearby Chez Ray's restaurant, said he is considering leasing the theater and turning it into a venue for live performances. Sewell said he plans to decide within 60 days whether to make the investment.

"We're exploring using it for live performances, concerts, plays and vaudevilles," he said.

Sewell said the 900-seat theater would fill a much-needed niche in Eugene for a medium-sized venue, one that could attract acts that couldn't fill the Hult Center but are too popular for the city's smaller stages.

"We could get what's left of the Grateful Dead, or B.B. King-type performers or Robert Cray," he said.

Sewell said he foresees using the theater in conjunction with his own cafe and stage, as well as with a blues club he's considering opening on the block.

Turn to McDonald, page 5A

## City, UO to join forces on downtown renewal

The Eugene mayor's state-of-the-city speech emphasized creation of new jobs and revitalization of the city's core

By Darren Freeman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Mayor Jim Torrey said today in his fifth state-of-the-city address that the city will work with the University on developing an economic strategy to bring quality jobs to Eugene, revitalize the downtown mall and help struggling businesses.

The announcement came just days after the Symantec Corp. downtown customer service center declared it will move its operation and 550 employees into Springfield, and just less than a week after the Eugene Water and Electric Board decided to hike electric rates.

Both events could hurt Eugene businesses and set back the city's efforts to promote a thriving downtown business area.

"Our region needs a new economic strategy to replace the jobs we will be losing," Torrey said during his speech Wednesday afternoon before a crowd of more than 300 people in the Eugene Hilton.

"The University of Oregon and its president have agreed to work together with us on this," he said. "We're fortunate to have this facility in our community, and we're going to call on them to help develop a new strategy."

Dan Williams, vice president for University administration, said the partnership will not likely be a formal one, but will signify increased cooperation between University researchers and the city.

"It's been an ongoing relationship between the University and the city, but this is a more pressing issue to the mayor," Williams said. "Exactly what form it takes is still unknown."

Torrey described downtown Eugene as a connect-the-dots drawing, with the dots being successful but isolated business areas that must be connected to each other to create a unified, prosperous downtown.

"We have these independent, successful areas that need to be connected, and we don't have a lot of time to do this," he said. "We need to do this now."

He repeated his call to reopen West Broadway Avenue to traffic, reiterated his desire to attract the new federal courthouse to Eugene, supported a Lane Transit District plan to build shuttle routes from outlying areas into downtown and suggested the city aggressively move to attract businesses to occupy the 162,230-square-foot building Symantec will vacate early next year.

Other goals include completing the city's embattled

Turn to State of City, page 6A

*"We have these independent, successful areas that need to be connected and we don't have a lot of time to do this."*

Jim Torrey  
Eugene mayor