

# Oregon Daily Emerald

An independent newspaper



## Looking forward

The Oregon men's basketball team hopes to salvage its season with a strong second half. **PAGE 5**

## Planning pay

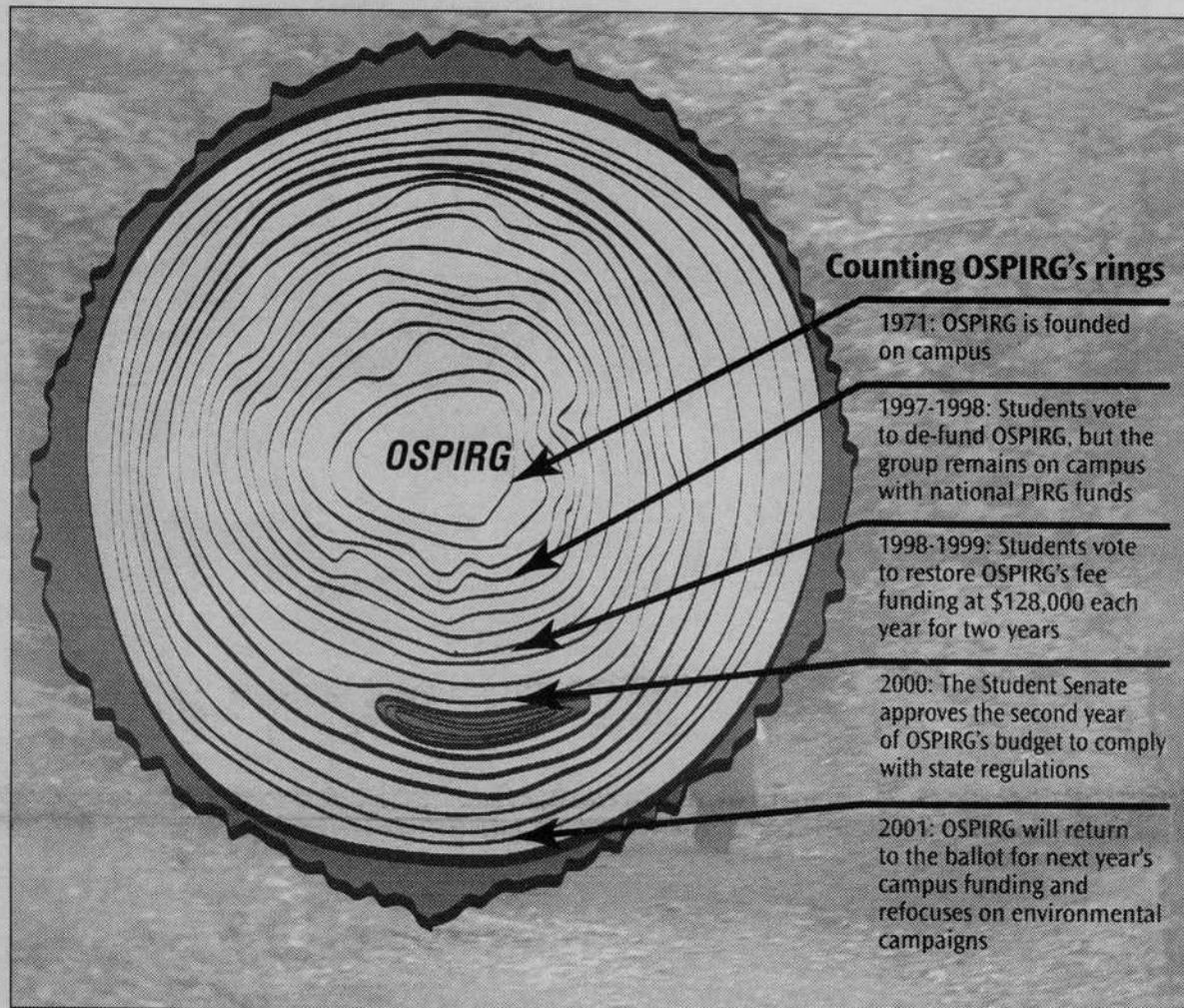
The big topic at the Crisis Center's Programs Finance Committee hearing was pay for counselors. **PAGE 3**

WEATHER  
TODAY



PARTLY CLOUDY  
high 55, low 40

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON



Russell Weller Emerald

## OSPIRG goes back to ASUO ballot

The group will once again ask students for incidental fee funding in the ASUO general election

By Lisa Toth  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The deadline to file measures for the ASUO ballot is today, and OSPIRG is certain to make an appearance.

For the first time in two years, students will decide if the Oregon student chapter of the national Public Interest Research Group will receive student fee funding and remain on campus for another year. OSPIRG is working to inform students at information tables and by distributing handouts on

campus about how it spends its money. OSPIRG wants to make sure students are informed so the group will receive its money and avoid the funding controversies that have haunted it in previous years.

This year, OSPIRG will ask for \$149,904 — or \$2.88 per student per term — in the ASUO general election, set for March 5 to March 8.

Students granted OSPIRG two years of incidental fee funding two years ago. But last year, the group discovered that revisions

to Oregon's Clark Document restrict ballot measures to only one year of funding.

"Any group receiving incidental fees cannot get multi-year funding through a ballot measure," ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton said.

To solve the problem, the ASUO Student Senate approved OSPIRG's 2000-01 budget last year for \$128,000.

Creighton said OSPIRG gets

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## High schools' lesson plans scrutinized

University administrators and faculty participated in a conference to discuss areas in which high-school students need better preparation for college

By Mandy Toomey  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Freshmen entering universities across the country are having a difficult time grasping basic higher education concepts, a group of University faculty members meeting Monday and Tuesday on campus said. The faculty gathered for the National Conversations conference to address the fact that 40 percent of all college students are having to take some remedial classes in preparation for standard college courses.

Faculty and administrators broke into focus groups during the conference, with subjects including math, science, social science, English and foreign languages, to discuss areas where students need the most improvement and to critique samples of exemplary student work submitted by faculty members.

In the English discussion group, participants raised their concerns that many incoming students are lacking general background knowledge, which is necessary to understand the context of subject material, said Andrea Conklin Bueschel, facilitator for the English discussion group. A lot of first-year students don't have the clear cultural or historical background knowledge needed to understand texts, Conklin Bueschel said.

This conference served as a pilot for five others, which will be held February through May across the nation as part of the national Standards for Success project, sponsored through the Association of American Universities. The AAU universities are divided into regions, with conferences being held at the University of Oregon and the University of California, Berkeley on the West Coast; the University of Iowa and the University of Missouri in the Midwest; and at Rutgers and the Mass-

From these conferences, we get a much better idea of what the faculty want from students.

David Conley  
director,  
Center of  
Applied Policy  
Studies

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## Senate confirms nominations of Whitman, Norton

By John Heilprin  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman and former Colorado Attorney General Gale Norton won Senate approval Tuesday to direct the nation's environmental and natural resources policies.

The Senate voted unanimously 99-0 to confirm Whitman as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency after voting 75-24 minutes earlier, along partisan and geographical lines, to accept President Bush's choice of Norton to be secretary of the interior.

Most of those opposing Norton, 46,

were Senate Democrats from Eastern states. Her most vocal support came from Senate Republicans in Western states with a large percentage of federal-owned lands. Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., who backed both women, missed the votes due to weather-related travel problems.

The votes left all of Bush's Cabinet seats but one — that of attorney general — filled just 10 days after his inauguration.

Whitman, 54, a two-term Republican governor popular with lawmakers, will resign her post one year shy of completing her second and final term.

"It's an honor," Whitman said of her new job at EPA. "There are hard decisions to be made with this agency, and you can't make everybody happy."

Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's panel on forests and public lands, said the Bush administration is going to make important policy shifts on the environment.

"What you're going to see this administration say is that environmental policy will become a rule of law again and a rule of process and procedure with credibility," Craig

said in an interview.

At her confirmation hearing, Whitman promised "a strong federal role" on environmental protection but said she will review several regulations issued in the last month of the Clinton presidency, including expensive new diesel standards.

Norton, a past advocate of state's and property rights, encountered more opposition in becoming the government's chief steward for half a billion acres of federal land and natural resources as secretary of the interior.

Republicans said they were confident Norton could balance preserving and developing those resources.

"She grew up in Colorado; she understands what wilderness means," said Sen. Bob Smith, R-N.H.

Democrats said they only hope that Norton, a protege of Reagan-era Interior Secretary James Watt, doesn't live up to their worst fears.

"I hope she listens to this and proves me wrong," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who voted against the nomination. "She's out of the mainstream of thought."

Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., disagreed. "I've listened to some of the detractors on the Senate floor," he said, "and I have to tell you that is not the Gale Norton I know."