

Oregon Daily Emerald

An independent newspaper

Quite an effort

Freddie Jones and the Ducks compete step-for-step with No. 2 Stanford, but lose, 69-62. **PAGE 7A**

Cupid returns

Find out all the tricks for creating the perfect Valentine's Day. **Inside supplement**

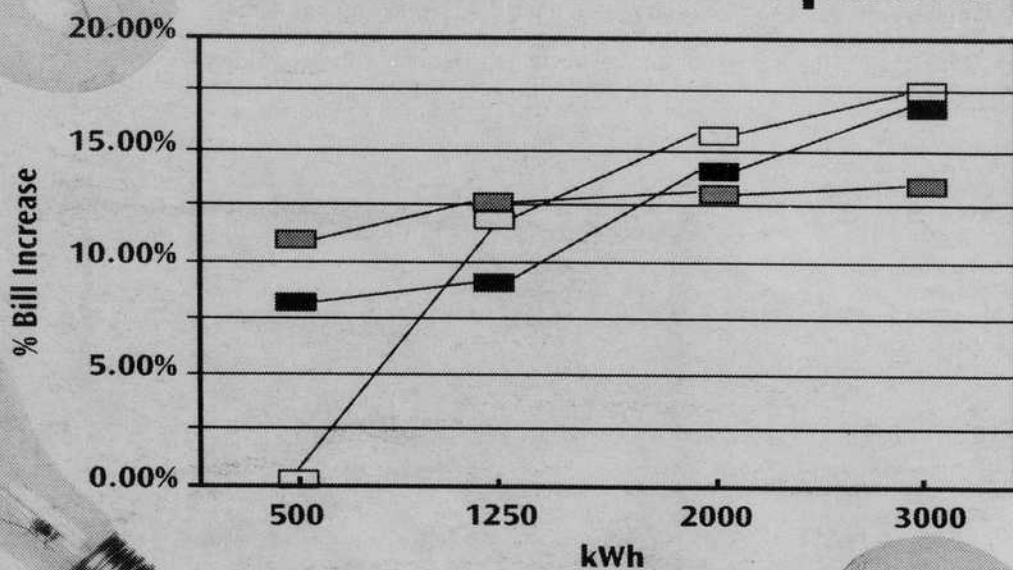
WEATHER TODAY



RAIN LIKELY
high 43, low 30

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

Residential Rate Options



Block Rate

500 kWh

First Block Rate	\$0.04351	\$0.04569	\$0.04786
Second Block Rate	0.05309	0.05180	0.05050

1250 kWh

First Block Rate	\$0.04351	\$0.04569	\$0.04786
Second Block Rate	0.06527	0.05956	0.05385

Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

Rate model draws mixed reviews

Eugene residents hold a variety of opinions about EWEB's proposed inverted rate mode

By Lindsay Buchele
Oregon Daily Emerald

The recent energy crunch has left some Washington cities with as much as a 43 percent rate increase, and California with rolling blackouts.

Meanwhile, faced with rising wholesale electricity costs, the Eugene Water and Electric Board has been struggling to find a way to increase residential rates without rendering area residents incapable of paying their bills. EWEB Fiscal Services Supervisor Dick Varner offered the EWEB board

some rate increase models at its meeting Tuesday, including the inverted rate model, an option that the public has simultaneously loved and hated.

The possibility of the board making a decision Tuesday prompted more than 30 area residents to come and speak their minds, a rather large turnout for an EWEB event.

The most controversial proposal is the inverted rate model, which will charge residents more if they exceed a certain level of energy use. Varner said the board

is considering the inverted rate option because it provides an incentive for energy conservation.

"We are trying to provide enough of an incentive for people to conserve without putting a huge difference in their bills," Varner said. His plans include dividing consumers into payment blocks based on energy consumption.

For example, the first block in one of the inverted models has a cutoff at 1,250 kilowatt-hours.

Turn to **Electricity**, page 4A

Oregon schools to face budget cuts, shortfalls

■ An Oregon University system report projects large funding losses for the state's universities, but administrators are taking the news in stride

By Andrew Adams
Oregon Daily Emerald

Since Gov. John Kitzhaber submitted his budget proposal in January, it has become known that the Oregon University System could be feeling a significant budget pinch for the 2001-2003 funding biennium.

Now that the OUS chancellor's office has finished its report on projected losses and reductions in response to the governor's proposal, it is becoming clear how much that pinch might hurt.

The report, prepared for the State Board of Education's meeting on Feb. 16, projects a total shortfall of \$96,213,387 for the entire system. The University could see almost \$17 million less, may be forced to lose 82 faculty members and 171 staff members, admit 600 fewer students and potentially lose about \$3 million in research funds.

Compiled from projections from all seven campuses, the report predicts there could also be an \$11.2 million loss in public service programs and a more than \$100 million loss in opportunity costs that include private and public funding, regional impacts and research grants.

Despite the dire outlook, Chancellor Joe Cox included a statement in his report that called the situation "pretty hypothetical," and added there has been a \$29.3 million budget "addback" proposed in the state Legislature

that could offset some of the possible shortfalls.

University administration members were unavailable for comment.

OUS spokesman Bob Bruce said the situation seems more serious than it actually is. He said there could be several changes during the legislative session that could swing things in higher education's favor, but he admitted the OUS had to know what the worst-case scenario could be.

"It's prudent for the system and the institutions to study the magnitude of the [budget-et]," he said.

The Legislature will continue to work on the state's budget for the next few months, Bruce said, and there are various factors including upcoming state revenue estimates that could change the current budget situation.

"We're continuing to work to improve that situation," he said. "The numbers could change."

Oregon State University may take the deepest cut, as it stands to lose \$22.9 million on its campus and nearly \$17 million throughout its extension services. It may also lose up to 112 faculty members and be forced to admit 1,043 fewer students.

In an earlier interview, Cox said the university system would have to wait and see how the budget situation works out. He said there

Turn to **Budget**, page 4A

Student groups may lose ability to charge admission

The Executive is considering a new rule that would prevent campus groups from charging students full price to attend events

By Beata Mostafavi
Oregon Daily Emerald

As the Programs Finance Committee finished approving student group budgets in January, the ASUO Executive began raising some questions about student incidental fees, which support those groups — specifically whether organizations supported by fee money should charge admission for their events.

Although no decisions have been made, in the last

couple of weeks the ASUO and the PFC have discussed the possibility of making a new rule for next year that would prohibit student groups from charging full price for events such as culture nights, and only allow them to accept donations.

This idea came from the premise that because students are already paying for student groups through incidental fees, they shouldn't be required to pay for events put on by

those organizations.

The notion of banning ticket sales for events also stemmed from the possibility that groups may sometimes put profits from the events into their fundraising accounts, which is illegal because incidental fees paid in part for the events.

The PFC grants some groups a subsidy, which allows them to charge students a discount rate for events, and the Executive is not concerned about

these kinds of charges. But ASUO and PFC members have been worried about situations where students pay the same price as community members, and culture nights have been the primary examples of this.

Student incidental fees can't be used for events that produce profits for the groups' personal fundraising accounts, which are separate from funds that come from the fees. Though strict limitations on the use of in-

cidental funds exist, groups can spend fundraising money for almost anything, according to the PFC.

But cultural student groups especially worry that the rule would have a detrimental impact on their ability to organize events, because they use ticket sales to make up for event costs.

Vietnamese Student Association historian Melissa Chun said normally the group's budget for culture

Turn to **Fee**, page 4A

“It’s ticket sales that breaks us even.”

Melissa Chun
historian,
Vietnamese
Student
Association