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Bush

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the people who were trying to make a living off the land," he said. "I told these two good men that we were gonna do everything we can to make sure water is available."

Bush avoided laying out any concrete policy measures on the economy, but reaffirmed his support for his 2001 tax cut and for extending unemployment benefits. He also attempted to rally the crowd behind his economic stimulus package, which has stalled in the Senate.

"Any economic stimulus plan must also expand the job base. We ought to be asking ourselves, 'what will it take to increase more jobs?' so people can find work," he said. The President's optimism about the economy struck a chord with many in the crowd. "I thought the speech was wonderful," said Tina Larson of Portland. "He talked about the small business man, and it has been a long time since we have heard that."

Some Parkrose students were in awe just to be able to see the President so clearly. "It was cool sitting 200 feet from the President even though I didn't agree with what he said," said Samantha Dillman, a Parkrose senior. Dillman said she and her friend, Janette Cullins, received their tickets by winning a lottery at school.

Sen. Smith, up for re-election this November, brought the crowd to its feet as he introduced the President and presented him with a green University of Oregon football jacket.

"Mr. President, we know that in a few weeks the Miami Hurricanes will be in the White House," Sen. Smith said. "We understand that, but we also want you to remember that the Ducks weren't invited."

Music, speakers and introduc-



Thomas Patterson Emerald

Portland police, clad in riot gear, work to clear Northeast 122nd Avenue, which on Saturday was blocked by activists like Louis Ursitti (above), who showed up to protest the appearance of President George W. Bush at Parkrose High School.

tions of Portland-area politicians enchanted the crowd during the long wait for the President. The Parkrose High School Debonaire Choir performed a medley of show tunes. Salem music teacher Rosalie Karalekas and her daughter Nicole performed the song "Dear Mr. President, The Children are Counting on You," which Rosalie wrote following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Miss America Katie Harman, a 21-year-old Gresham native, warmed the crowd with two songs - including "God Bless America" - and a speech about bravery during bad times.

"Being a person that is a member of Generation X, this is a time for the young people to rise up in our

nation and to assume responsibility for the position we will once have in this nation," she said. "We will be the future leaders."

The war in Afghanistan and the broader war on terrorism brought many of the protesters out on the frigid streets of Portland. Many held signs, sang songs and yelled chants. Nearly 400 protesters waited for Bush - and the crowd - to leave the high school to swing the protest into full fury.

"I am out here to protest Bush, I am out here to protest the war and I am out here in defiance from these people here kicking us out of the street," Alison Musillani of Monmouth said. Officers on horseback entered the street when

protesters - and the Noise Brigade, a 15-piece drum, trombone and bullhorn band - entered traffic in front of the high school. They warned the protesters to vacate the street.

After the police had the protesters out of the street and lined up in a parking lot across from the school, the protesters started chanting anti-war and anti-police slogans. As the first airplane took off from nearby Portland International Airport, protesters declared it was Air Force One and screamed defiantly while waving their signs in the air.

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Kitzhaber

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After that announcement, Kitzhaber ordered all state-funded institutions to develop plans to pare budgets by 2 to 10 percent, in 2 percent increments. The University of Oregon designed cuts that could fall between \$2 and \$12 million, and the State Board of Higher Education - which oversees the state's eight public schools in Oregon - created a plan to cut money from their budgets.

During the meeting in downtown Eugene, Kitzhaber said he would like to keep cuts away from primary and secondary education, social services and police protection. However, these programs make up a considerable portion of the state's budget.

Local education leaders felt the governor's priorities and economic realities may not bode well for state universities and community colleges.

"Post-12 education was not in one of the hot priorities, so that gives us a clue what he was thinking about community colleges and universi-

ties," said Mary Spilde, president of Lane Community College.

Oregon has serious structural financial problems on top of a short-term budget deficit, Kitzhaber said. These problems include the passage of Measure 5 in 1991, which capped the amount of property tax that can go to pay for education. Because of this cap, the state must pick up the rest of the tab. And, the State of Oregon's kicker check system did not allow the government to set up a "rainy-day fund" in times of economic problems.

"The recession has revealed that our cupboards are bare," he said.

Kitzhaber stressed to the business leaders that decisions made in the next few months could greatly influence the future of the state.

"The real question is what is happening to those kids, and whether we are giving them the kind of educational opportunity that we had and we want the future leaders of Oregon to have," he said.

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