



Pulse
One Medford-based rock band has left its mark in Eugene and across the Northwest.
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Sports
Five freshmen are giving the women's basketball team a new look — and game.
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Governor releases new plan to balance budget

Extensive program cuts to accompany tax hikes

By John Liebhardt
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Gov. John Kitzhaber announced Wednesday that sin is "in" — at least when it comes to covering Oregon's expected budget shortfall.

Kitzhaber released a plan Wednesday to attack the projected 2001-03 state budget deficit by cutting \$414 million worth of state programs and increasing beer and wine taxes by 5 cents per drink and cigarette taxes by 30 cents per pack.

He also called for repealing Ballot Measure 88, passed by Oregon voters in 2000, which allows residents to deduct federal tax payments that exceed \$5,000 from their Oregon taxes.

Mindful of a faltering economy and the highest unemployment rate in the United States, Kitzhaber combined his long-awaited plan with an economic stimulus package that included \$750 million in road and bridge projects and a new state lottery fund for public schools.

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Governor's budget cuts for selected programs

Education:
\$44.5 million Oregon University System
\$21 million Other education programs
\$15.5 million Community colleges
\$112 million K-12 schools

Other:
\$69.7 million from human services
\$73.1 million from public safety



SOURCE: Office of the Governor

Budget plan for OUS calls for 5.5 percent reduction

By Leon Tovey
 Oregon Daily Emerald

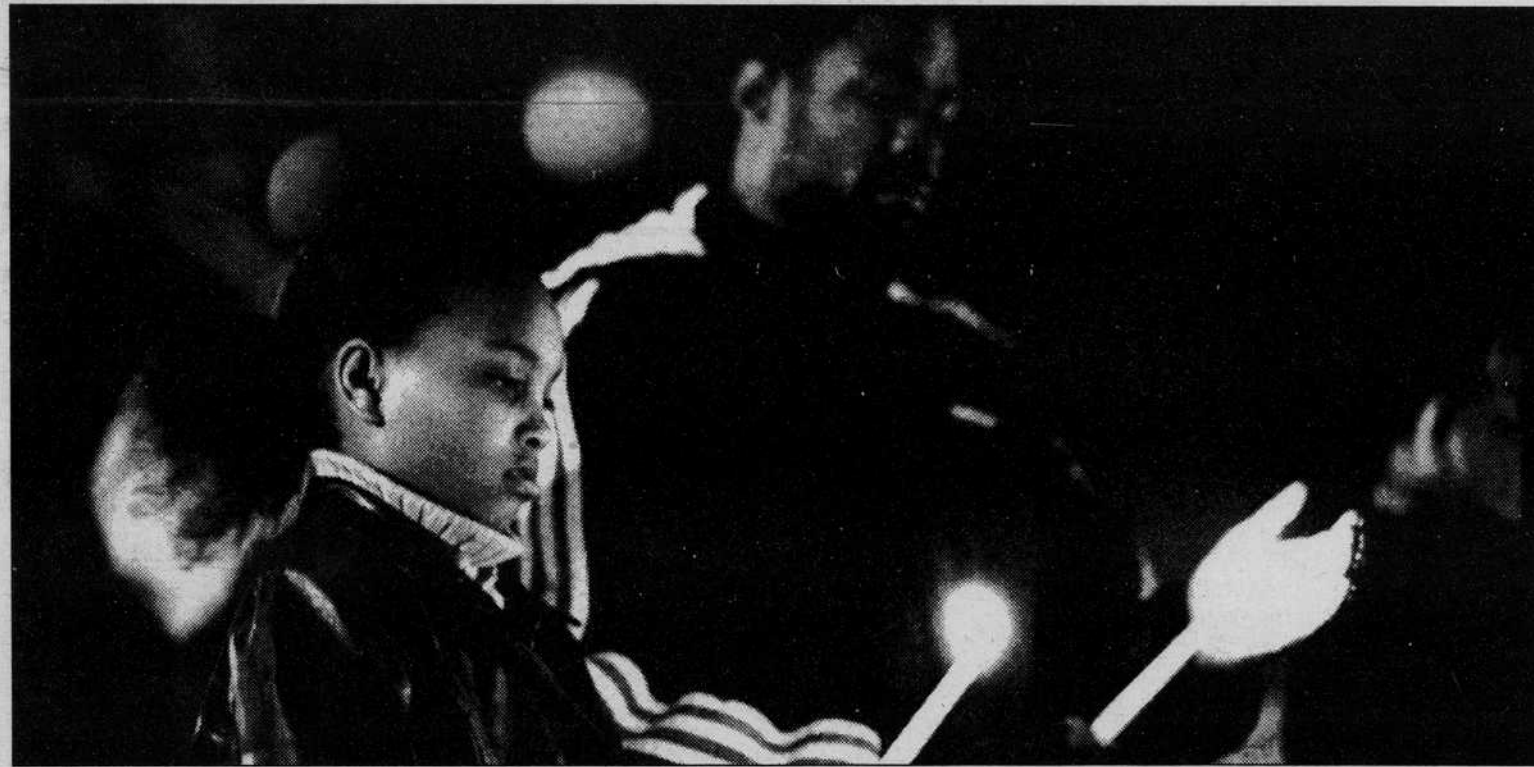
Oregon higher education officials breathed a sigh of relief Wednesday after Gov. John Kitzhaber announced a new plan to re-balance the state's 2001-03 budget.

As part of his proposed plan, Kitzhaber recommended a \$44.5 million cut to the Oregon University System's operating budget. The 5.5 percent OUS reduction is less than what Kitzhaber asked the State Board of Higher Education to consider in October.

Tim Young, a student representative with the board, said Kitzhaber had asked the board to consider budget cuts as high as 10 percent. Young, a University political science major, expressed relief at the news of the governor's proposal.

"My gut reaction is that it is a dramatic improvement," Young said. "There's only so far you can stretch a rubber band before it breaks. This is still tough for everybody, but at least

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Adam Amato Emerald

Christina Stubbs (left) says Martin Luther King Jr. "just wanted everyone to be friends," as she stands with her father, Chris, at the Open Mic & Candlelight Vigil in the EMU Amphitheater on Wednesday night. The vigil, part of this year's "Redefining the Dream" King celebration on campus, drew nearly 75 people to speak and sing.

Staying Vigilant

■ Speakers at a candlelight vigil urge people to honor Martin Luther King Jr. by bringing his message to present-day issues

By Robin Weber
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Keynote speaker Mark Tracy encouraged people Wednesday night to follow Martin Luther King Jr.'s example of looking within and finding their own motivation. Tracy spoke to a crowd of nearly 75 students, faculty and community members honoring King at an open mic and candlelight vigil in the EMU Amphitheater in King's honor.

"Find the battle Dr. King

fought for us, and fight it today," said Tracy, assistant dean of diversity programs.

The open mic and vigil comes after more than a week of events put on by student organizations commemorating King's life, death and legacy, all following the theme, "Redefining the Dream." The activities this year aimed at appealing to people of all ages, races and creeds through guest speakers, dancers and actors wanting to relay King's message of motivation and acceptance.

"Many people don't think beyond King's 'I Have a Dream' speech," Black Student Union co-director Kawezya Hutchinson

said about this year's theme. "We wanted people to look at his life in a different aspect and at his role in other areas of the civil rights movement."

The crowd followed Hutchinson's co-director, Haben Woldu, on a candlelight procession through the amphitheater while united in song.

Many guests echoed Tracy's words, relaying accounts of King's impact on their lives and opinions.

"A lot of people can talk about King and relate his life to present-day issues," returning student Dot Cogdell said.

Jack Radey, a member of the

Eugene Peace Choir, said that the immense trust people had in King was one of King's greatest accomplishments.

"In my lifetime, I have seen no other political leader who was such a spokesperson for the United States' ideals and for courage," Radey said.

Radey and other singers led and performed songs throughout the service, and the vigil came to a close with the Eugene Peace Choir once again taking the stage. The choir led the audience — joined hand in hand — in singing "We Shall Overcome."

E-mail reporter Robin Weber at robinweber@dailymerald.com.

Commentator, PFC to battle over funding

■ Staff at the student publication say their mission statement doesn't show "an alliance with a political party"

By Kara Cogswell
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Members of the Oregon Commentator staff said they will file a grievance with the ASUO Constitution Court tomorrow, asking the court to approve the publication's mission statement and overturn an earlier decision by the ASUO Programs Finance Committee.

On Jan. 18, PFC postponed voting on the Commentator's 2002-03 budget because members of the committee objected to the campus publication's mission statement on the grounds that it advocated political views.

According to PFC member Joe Streckert, the ASUO Green Tape Notebook prohibits groups from receiving student funds if they are affiliated with a political party.

Commentator publisher Bret Jacobson called PFC's decision "an outrageous attempt to censor a student publication."

He said the Commentator's mission statement has been the same for more than 17 years, and it expresses a political philosophy, not an alliance with a political party.

"The PFC's error in judgment ... is making a logical leap between a philosophy and a legal affiliation," he said.

Streckert said he would present evidence to the court that PFC's decision violated the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Southworth v. University of Wisconsin*. The *Southworth* case established that student fees must be allocated to groups through a politically neutral process.

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