

#### Student Senate funds **Pacific Islands Club**

The ASUO Student Senate allocated money to the Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation and the Pacific Islands Club at Wednesday's meeting.

JELL requested money to fund a symposium scheduled for Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. The group is hosting several speakers for the twoday environmental law conference, including Winona LaDuke, and needs money to cover expenses. The board voted 10 to 2 to allocate \$2,771 to help fund the event.

Nicole Shanahan, a representative from the Pacific Islands Club. requested \$300 to get the group up and running. She said the group was started in 1999, but it never received funding and has been inactive for the past two years.

"We want to bring the various and vast cultures of the Pacific islands to Eugene," she said. Senate President Peter Watts

supported the group's request.

We should try and nurture new clubs, especially since this is a culture not represented on campus," he told the board.

The board unanimously agreed to allocate \$300 to the club.

— Diane Huber

**OUS Budget** 

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Budget

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now the sky's not falling."

On January 7, Kitzhaber announced a potential re-balance plan — based only on program cuts - that would have reduced the OUS budget by \$84 million. Kitzhaber was constitutionally required to make the proposal but repeatedly said that he did not consider it fiscally responsible or politically possible.

But according to John Wykoff, legislative director for the Oregon Student Association, some officials feared the proposal just the same. The OSA expected to see

"This recession is national -

even international - in scope, and

state government can affect it only

minimally," Kitzhaber said in a

statement. "However, that doesn't

mean we shouldn't do all we can."

\$44.5 million from the Oregon Uni-

versity System, \$112 million from

K-12 schools, \$15.5 million from

community colleges, \$69.7 million

from human services, including the

Oregon Health Plan and \$73.1 mil-

lion from public safety programs,

Because of the relationship be-

tween Oregon's faltering economy

and high budget deficits, both the

Legislature and Kitzhaber will be

doing a lot of hand wringing over

these program cuts, said State Sen.

'Anything we do is painful. Rais-

Phil Barnhart, D-Eugene.

such as the Oregon State Police.

Kitzhaber's budget cuts include

6,000 state opportunity grants eliminated. Under the new plan, only 1,300 grants would be eliminated, he said.

OUS spokesman Bob Bruce agreed that the new proposal hurts OUS less, but it is too early to tell how the proposed cuts will affect individual universities.

Others are not so optimistic. State Rep. Vicki Walker, D-Eugene, noted that OUS "took a pretty big cut."

"I don't know how we are going to meet these cuts" while trying to accommodate higher levels of enrollment, she said.

University of Oregon Provost John Moseley said the new proposal still fails to address increased en-

other legislators into session Feb. 8

to deal with the budget shortfall.

However, the Democratic governor

will face a Republican-controlled

Legislature with budget plans of

State Sen. Gary George, R-New-

berg, predicted that the governor

votes to create the tax plan. He

said any tax increase calls for an

18-vote majority in the 30-seat

Senate and a 36-vote majority in

the Senate 16 to 14 and the House

supporting a bipartisan budget

plan from the so-called "Gang of

Five," a Senate and House group

of 3 Republicans and 2 Democrats.

Currently, Republicans control

George chided Kitzhaber for not

of Oregon can handle."

their own.

32 to 28.

the 60-seat House.

rollment projections facing state universities. There could be 1.000 new students at the University next fall with no state funding to offset costs, he said.

But Moseley would not predict how the final budget would pan out.

"This is just one more proposal in a series of proposals," he said. "But we do appreciate the fact that higher education's situation has improved at each stage. I hope that (the governor and the legislature) will be able to continue to improve the situation."

### Community editor John Liebhardt E-mail higher education editor Leon Tovey

The group released a plan Thursday that called for \$525 million

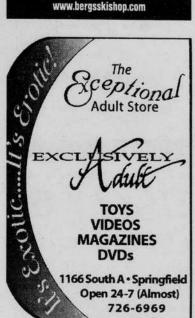
"Our folks got together to make a plan, and (Kitzhaber) put it in the

If any tax increase has a chance of passing in the legislature, it is socalled sin taxes, said state Rep. Vicki Walker, D-Eugene. "There are people out there who think people who smoke and drink should pay for it," she said.

force bars and restaurant owners to raise the price of a drink, said Bill Perry, director of government relations for the Oregon Restaurant Association.

handled the (extra tax)," he said. "But this has a greater effect in an economic downturn.'

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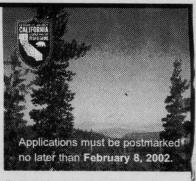
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# contributed to this report. at leontovey@dailyemerald.com.

ing taxes is painful, cutting budgets is painful," he said. "We just have to find how much pain the people in program cuts, but called for no tax increases. Kitzhaber will call Barnhart and

trash," George said.

will have a hard time finding the However, the 5-cent tax will

"In good times, we could have

E-mail community editor John Liebhardt at

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