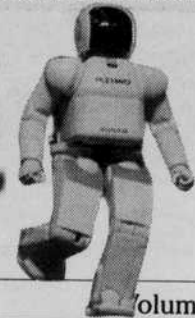


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## Foes of 28 step up debate

Some Measure 28 opponents fear that it may have a negative impact on businesses in Oregon

### Oregon votes 2003

**Jan Montry**  
City/State Politics Reporter

A distrust of state spending, worries about Oregon's failing economy and an apprehension of tax increases are among the top reasons Measure 28 opponents are fighting the \$724 million measure on the Jan. 28 ballot.

And as support for Measure 28 continues to gain momentum in the polls, debate is heating up.

"(Measure 28) is putting a small Band-Aid on a gaping wound," Rep. Jeff Kruse, R-Roseburg said.

Kruse said the only way for Oregon to escape the recession is to invigorate the private sector — not to use tax cuts to take

money out, which he said would only perpetuate economic woes.

"Quite simply, the recession isn't in the government; it's in the private sector," he said.

Kruse, along with Rep. Dan Doyle, R-Salem, developed a no-tax plan to balance last year's budget that included eliminating new programs, selling a large portion of the motor pool and reforming the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System. Although Kruse said the plan itself won't be pushed for the next budget, some of the specific ideas from the plan, such as freezes on state wages, will be voted.

Russ Walker, northwest director of Citizens for a Sound Economy, said an income tax increase would have multiple adverse effects on the economy. Walker noted that Oregon, which he said is competing with 49 other states for businesses, would be an unattractive location for new industry if the increase goes through.

He warned against adding new taxes to Oregon's high capital gains tax, which af-

fects investment profit, along with the expanding business activities tax and burdensome regulatory structure for businesses. The result, he said, would be that new businesses will not settle here and struggling businesses will be scared away.

To prevent cuts to essential services such as roads, police and schools, non-essential services could undertake alterations if the measure fails, Walker said.

Such changes could include the privatization of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles, elimination of Certificate of Initial and Advanced Mastery programs, reformation of land usage and opening of forests to timber harvesting.

"The key is finding the barriers the gov-

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### Measure 28

A 10-part series examining the budget implications of the Jan. 28 special election.

## PFC approves \$32,000 budget for Night Ride

Despite a limited budget, the ASUO Programs Finance Committee gives Night Ride a budget increase

**Ali Shaughnessy**  
Freelance Reporter

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee made one thing very clear at its meeting Tuesday — this year's budget is a tight one.

"Funding this year is very tight; there are a lot of mandatory increases PFC has to deal with," PFC senator seat No. 3 Mike Sherman said.

It is because of these mandatory increases that each group, with the exception of three, walked away from its PFC budget hearing with an increase in funds.

Spencer View Tenants' Council was zero-funded by PFC after failing to show up to its budget hearing on time. PFC is obligated to zero-fund a group if that group is 10 or more minutes late. The council plans to appeal the decision, however, and has five busi-

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## A reel good year

Along with the usual big-budget Hollywood films, 2002 offered plenty of Oscar-worthy movies

**Ryan Bornheimer**  
Senior Pulse Reporter

Movie industry folks are likely to be sleeping in tuxedos and formal gowns this time of year. Everyday it seems another movie award ceremony is held and seemingly millions of golden statuettes are doled out for the films released the previous year. But beyond the pomp and self-congratulation, 2002 emerged as the exciting culmination of nearly three decades of American filmmaking.

It was a year when old-school film legends stood beside a new generation of storytellers to push the boundaries of the medium. From Martin Scorsese's powerful "Gangs of New York" to Paul Thomas Anderson's blissful "Punch-Drunk Love," we finally have a reason to celebrate what movies are capable of.

"Gangs" has been 30 years in the making — Scorsese originally slated the film as his follow-up to 1976's "Taxi Driver." The final result is a powerful history lesson. Daniel Day-Lewis possesses the screen with an authority that easily places his character in the annals of screen villains.

The young director of "Magnolia" has pointed to Scorsese as a big influence in his short career, but "Punch-Drunk" is all Anderson. There are images and moments in this movie that never leave the mind, and Adam Sandler blows away preconceptions with a rich and subtle performance.

Film veteran Brian DePalma gave us the flawed but challenging "Femme Fatale" while music-video upstart Spike Jonze proved his "Being John Malkovich" wasn't just a fluke. Collaborating once again with screenwriter Charlie Kaufman, Jonze delivered the endlessly entertaining "Adaptation."

While "Fatale" was largely overlooked by American critics,

DePalma created a film that experiments with the conventions of linear story-telling and editing. No filmmaker in the last two decades has done this with more style than DePalma. He has never challenged himself as much as he does with "Femme Fatale."

Jonze, on the other hand, shows his own knack for spurning convention, juggling Kaufman's "Adaptation" script with ease and confidence. Meryl Streep is great fun to watch. Chris Cooper is amazing. And Nicolas Cage gives a performance that almost erases all the Hollywood sins he has committed in the last few years.

More intimate movies also shined in 2002. There's the obvious example of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." But there was also the easily missed "About A Boy," which proved Hugh Grant is far more than the sniveling dope we've grown tired of.

Steven Shainberg mixed masochistic eroticism with classical romance in the pitch-perfect "Secretary." Maggie Gyllenhaal and James Spader make the oddest, most loving couple of the year.

Director Todd Haynes also reshaped the film landscape with "Far From Heaven." Haynes' film never falters, challenging the way we view our cultural past and present as well as the way we watch movies.

Even blockbusters got a good name, thanks to the reigning king of crowd-pleasers, Steven Spielberg. "Minority Report" was a revelation: an escapist action film with real heart and brains. He followed this up with the two-hour smile of "Catch

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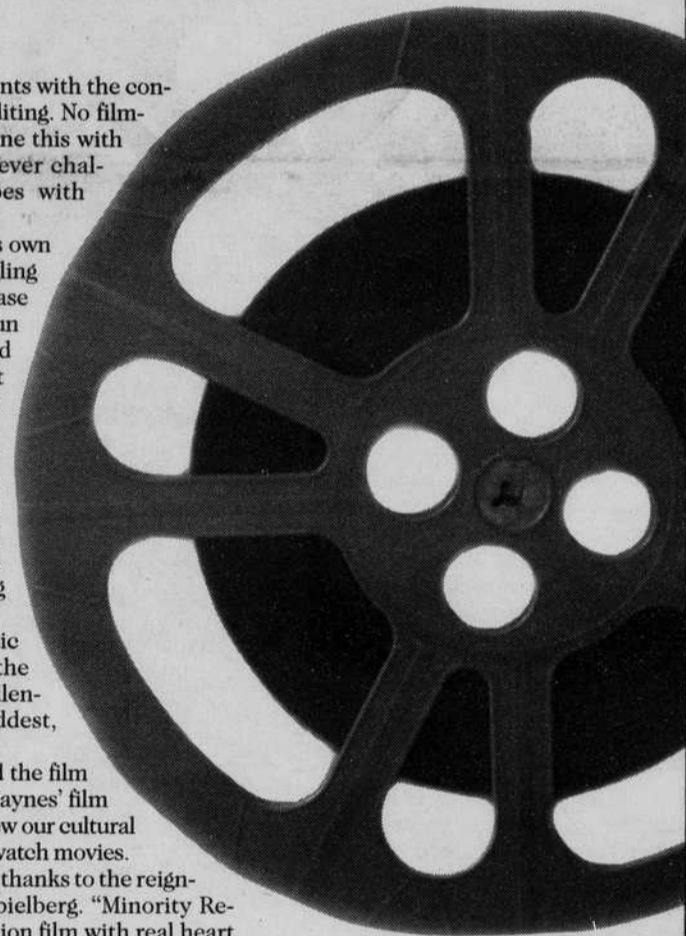


Photo illustration Emerald



## Dry weather to increase energy costs

Energy rates are set for winter, but continuing dry conditions could reduce the surplus and raise costs for the coming year

**Andrew Black**  
Environment/Science/Technology

Last week, the Northwest Power Planning Council predicted the likelihood of regional power shortages is less than 1 percent this year, and no greater than 6 percent by 2007. The council cited reduced demand of energy consumption in the aluminum smelting and paper pulp industries and increased availability of imported energy as factors in its forecast.

But despite the optimistic outlook toward regional power supplies, Eugene Water and Electric Board spokesman Scott Spettel said customers can still expect increased rates.

"Right now, rates are set for this winter," Spettel said. "But cost will continue to climb based in part on near drought conditions this year."

Spettel said the Bonneville Power Administration tries to keep power rates low for customers in the Northwest by selling surplus power to mar-

kets in California. But dry winter weather and a reduced snowpack have decreased the region's supply of extra power available for export. Spettel said BPA could raise rates by 15 to 20 percent during the next year to offset lost export revenue.

"The BPA is painting a pretty grim picture," Springfield Utility Board spokeswoman Meredith Clark said. "But we're still waiting to hear from them."

The Northwest River Forecast Center estimated this year's January through July Columbia River runoff at 27 percent less than historical averages, which would be the ninth lowest runoff since 1929.

Northwest Power Planning Council spokesman John Harrison said during the 2000-01 energy crisis, drought reduced energy supplies by 4,000 megawatts — nearly four times the amount of energy used by Seattle in a year. Since then, 410 megawatts of wind power, 2,600 megawatts from new natural gas-fired power plants and 200 megawatts from energy conservation have bolstered the region's power supply.

Harrison said the council predicts the demand for power in the North-

Turn to **Electricity**, page 3

### WEATHER

Today: High 53, Low 42, cloudy, chance of showers

Thursday: High 50, Low 40, breezy, showers likely

### LOOKING AHEAD

Friday  
Transgender advocates fight for equal rights in Oregon

Monday  
Take a look behind the 'who' and 'why' of City Council