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Bush proposes manned flights to moon, Mars

Bush plans to establish a more permanent outpost on the moon, create a new 'Crew Exploration Vehicle,' and then head for Mars

By Seth Borenstein
and William Douglas
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON — President Bush set a soaring "new course for America's space program" on Wednesday by proposing manned exploration of the moon within a generation and of Mars sometime after that.

The price could soar, too, to about \$170 billion, according to a NASA document. But Bush spoke mostly of the challenge he saw ahead.

"We do not know where this journey will end," Bush said, standing before photos of the moon and Mars at NASA's headquarters, "yet we

do know this: Human beings are headed into the cosmos."

Comparing the new quest into space to the Lewis and Clark expedition that opened the American West, the president declared: "The desire to explore and understand is part of our character."

Astronauts could return to the moon to establish a more permanent outpost, instead of brief visits as in the Apollo era, as soon as 2015 or as late as 2020, according to Bush's plan.

Wednesday's much-anticipated announcement was heavy on the what and the where of this new initiative, but light on the how and the how much.

The missions would employ a not-yet-designed "Crew Exploration Vehicle" that would replace the current space shuttle, which would be scrapped in 2010. Construction work on the International Space Station, the world's current presence in space, would finish at the same

time. It could be used to help on the moon-Mars mission.

Robots similar to the Spirit rover now on Mars will pave the way for manned moon missions, which could be launched as soon as 2008.

Bush gave no date for humans visiting the red planet. Sean O'Keefe, NASA's administrator, said: "Our principle destination is Mars to be sure. That's why we're there right now."

Bush also offered no overall cost estimate for NASA's vast new mission. Nor would NASA. A NASA document distributed after Bush's speech showed three general categories involving the moon-Mars mission and a few other smaller programs, which would cost a total of about \$170 billion by 2020. More than 80 percent of that spending would occur after Bush leaves office, even if he is elected to a second term.

Retiring the limping space shuttle program would free some money in NASA's tight \$15.4 billion budget, as would curtailing construction

for the over-budget International Space Station. Bush pledged to invite other nations to join in the missions to the moon and beyond, but O'Keefe said they'll be U.S.-led.

NASA veterans, including Christopher Kraft, who oversaw the Apollo Program, said the current agency is too old and rigid to do what the president wants. NASA will reorganize, in light of its new mission, on Thursday, O'Keefe said, with an emphasis on "being flexible."

The key to getting to the moon and eventually Mars is likely to be money, however, and NASA has had a hard time managing that. Former NASA officials and outside space experts point to a history of massive cost overruns and poor NASA budget estimating.

Going to the moon and Mars is important, and "the next thing an exploring nation ought to do," said Humbert Mandell, a former NASA

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Senate meeting addresses budget, athletics spending

The University Senate on Wednesday focused on the large Athletics Department budget and the financial impact of Ballot Measure 30

By Moriah Balingit
Freelance Reporter

Senior Vice President and Provost John Moseley revealed grim budget prospects for the coming year at Wednesday's University Senate meeting, and he emphasized the importance of Measure 30, the state's looming income-tax surcharge.

If Measure 30 fails, Moseley said, the University will see a \$2.5 million budget shortfall, which would result in tuition increases, program cuts or some combination of both.

There was some good news, however.

"We're not talking about a tuition increase for this academic year," University President Dave Frohnmaier said.

There is also a fair amount of uncertainty regarding the potential budget shortfalls. Moseley said Gov. Ted Kulongoski told faculty that, because of other legislation, the shortfall may be closer to \$1.7 million rather than the originally slated \$2.5 million.

In a panel discussion that followed the Senate meeting, titled "Intercollegiate Athletics and Higher Education," numerous members of the audience challenged the relationship between the Athletics Department and the University. The discussion was sponsored by the University Senate and the University of Oregon Chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Some members of the audience expressed concern that the Athletics Mission Statement conflicted with the University Mission Statement. ASUO Senate President Ben Strawn, a panelist in the discussion, countered that argument and said, "I don't think you can separate physical pursuits from intellectual pursuits when (examining the mission statement)."

Brad Shelton, chair of the Intercollegiate Athletics Commission, added, "I would be horrified if there was anything in the Athletics Mission Statement that didn't jive with the University Mission Statement."

The discussion then shifted to the athletics arms race, a movement of big spending by athletic programs that aim to keep up with and outdo one another. Many are concerned that Division I athletics programs are being pushed to outspend each other to attract the best athletes.

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End of the road



Erik Bishoff Photographer

Mayor Jim Torrey walks through the City Hall courtyard Wednesday afternoon after announcing he will not be running for re-election. Torrey cited personal reasons, as well as wanting to focus his energy on improving Eugene's schools instead of on campaigning.

Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey said Wednesday he will not run for re-election, saying it is time to allow others the chance to direct the city

By Lisa Catto
News Reporter

Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey announced Wednesday that he will not seek a third term after his tenure ends this year.

About 20 people gathered at Eugene City Hall to hear Torrey's announcement, which lasted about 10 minutes.

"There comes a time in everybody's life and career when it's time to step aside and let others step forward, and take

over in the position you've held for a period of time," the 63-year-old mayor said.

Rep. Pat Farr, R-Eugene, a former Eugene city councilor, was overcome with emotion at the announcement and wiped tears from his eyes.

"I've been so closely associated with Jim Torrey," Farr said. "It's not the end. I think we'll see Jim come back and do something later."

Torrey has been a part of local government for 16 years. He served four years as a Waldport city councilor and two years as a Eugene city councilor. He also served three years on the Eugene City Budget Committee. Torrey recently began the first month of his eighth year as Eugene mayor.

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