



**Cell Phone Story** — It was the cell phone of Umatilla Chairman Anton Minthorn (left) with its *William Tell Overture* ring that reminded the oldest in the crowd of the 1950s television western, *The Lone Ranger*.



Grand Ronde and Siletz Tribal Elder Bob Tom



## Solemn And Appreciative Dedic

day, came from 150-year-old douglasfir trees cut from the forests of the Coquilles.

On hand for the ceremony was Grand Ronde Tribal Elder Don Day, a UO graduate student who harvested and hand-axed the timbers, and Tribal member Leslie Riggs, a UO student who helped Day in the collection process and participated in the meetings bringing this building dream to life.

"It took us 11 years," said Jason Younker Ph.D. (Coquille), who now teaches anthropology and Native American studies at Rochester Institute of Technology, "but we got it right."

The dedication kicked off a full year of celebration. Already, said Riggs, there is talk about holding Chinook language classes here.

The day's theme seemed so clear: the Many Nations Longhouse honored the culture that Oregon's nine Tribes have in common.

"It's a place where (people from the nine Tribes) can come and be in peace," said Grand Ronde Tribal Council member Jack Giffen Jr.

At a time when Tribal tensions over a potential Warm Springs ca-

sino in the Gorge are simmering, this longhouse for all Indians, and for non-Indians, too, showed how much more in the culture unites the



**Welcome** — Professor Rob Proudfoot describes how the longhouse is made of dreams as UO President Dave Frohnmayer (seated) listens.

Tribes than divides them.

"What's wonderful is we're all here together," said Cow Creek Chair Sue Shaffer. The Cow Creeks provided financial support for the

project.

The Spirit Mountain Community Fund gave \$125,000 to the \$1.2 million project at the beginning of

Director Adam Henny.

Of many gifts given to the new longhouse during the day, Brent Florendo (Wasco-Warm Springs), Academic Program Coordinator for Native American Studies at Southern Oregon University (SOU), presented a Pendleton blanket for Elders to keep warm when they visit the longhouse.

Another was a cradle board made by Grand Ronde Tribal Council member Wesley West. "The longhouse is drawing all the Tribes together culturally and spiritually," said West. "I feel that the Tribes have united more today than at any other time."

Grand Ronde Tribal Council member Valorie Sheker-Robertson presented the cradle board before the hundreds of guests who helped usher in this new era at the university. She said that while the blanket from SOU honored our Elders, the cradle board showed Native American concern for young people.

UO Professor Rob Proudfoot, director of the university's Center for Indigenous Cultural Survival, stood tall and spoke at length to the

2002. Used as a matching fund at a crucial period of fund raising, the money helped the Grand Ronde Tribe be "part of their educational process," said Community Fund