OUS Budget Slashed by $50 Million

UO budget cut $4.2 million in three special sessions.
by Tim Black

The Oregon University System faces a $50 million reduction from its original budget following three special legislative sessions called by the governor to address the state’s revenue shortfall.

The University of Oregon’s share of the budget cut is approximately $4.2 million or 3.2 percent of its total budget.

The governor has until Aug. 9 to sign or veto the measures. A veto could mean deeper cuts and a fourth special session.

The third special session ended after the Legislature approved a re-balanced budget that used existing resources, shifted some payments to future biennia, used tobacco settlement funds, and increased cigarette taxes by 60 cents per pack, if the voters approve in a September ballot.

Gov. John Kitzhaber announced a possible veto of legislative bills that would:
- Shift $267 million of K–12 and community college payments into the next biennium;
- Take $17.7 million from the principal of the Common School Fund as a direct appropriation to schools;
- Call for $50 million in tobacco tax-backed revenue bonds; and
- End on July 1, 2009, the 60-cent cigarette tax increase referred to voters.

Go to <darkwing.uoregon.edu/~oga/> for regular updates on the state budget situation.

UO President Says...

State Needs New Compact with Public Universities

by Gaye Vandermyn

President Dave Frohnmayer is passionate that Oregon’s public universities need a “New Compact” with the State of Oregon.

Since the Measure 5 property tax limitation was enacted in the early 1990s, the state’s support of higher education has steadily declined. Today, the UO raises 82 percent of its own revenue. During the past decade, state support for the UO budget has dropped from 33 percent to 18 percent.

“This has been a tragic withdrawal from the state’s obligation, just when there is the greatest need in history to give its citizens access to higher education,” Frohnmayer says. “It is why we need a new Compact for Oregon. It merely recognizes the reality of our situation. We need to be allowed to move forward.

“As the state divests itself from supporting higher education,” he insists, “it should remove the shackles that keep us from being as effective as we need to be in finding our own resources and using them effectively.”

The seven university presidents jointly proposed the new compact earlier this month to the State Board of Higher Education. They want OUS to propose the new compact to the Legislature as the Higher Education Reform Act. The act would redefine the relationship between the universities, OUS and the Legislature, giving the universities more autonomy and flexibility.

More specifically, the compact would give the universities authority to set their own tuition and enrollment policies, end legislative restrictions on bonding and non-state expenditures, and increased cigarette taxes by 60 cents per pack, if the voters approve in a September ballot.

The universities also would be free to establish or expand academic programs to meet quickly changing market demands and available resources.

Under the new compact, universities also could operate more efficiently through changes in the current rules regarding purchasing, contracting and federal contract negotiations.

The state’s two largest newspapers already have editorially endorsed the proposal.

For more information, you can access an online booklet at <darkwing.uoregon.edu/~oga/newcompact.pdf>. Required is the free-to-download Adobe Acrobat Reader software that is available on the web site.

Gaye Vandermyn is Editor in Chief of Inside Oregon.

UO Staff Newsletter Transforms

Sometimes change happens slowly, as in the path of a meandering stream or the course of the moon across the night sky. Other times, as when a butterfly emerges from its chrysalis or tectonic plates slip to open a new fissure in the Earth, transformation appears suddenly.

Such abrupt change is the type you see in this issue of Inside Oregon, the staff and faculty newsletter of the University of Oregon. The name changed; you remember it as News & Views. The format grew in size. The design morphed to incorporate more images, added flexibility and the university’s new “O” graphic identity. Splashes of color appeared.

The size is new, the look is new and the editorial staff has been expanded. Gaye Vandermyn is now editor in chief and Joel Gorthy is news editor. John Crosiar will continue as calendar editor and senior writer.

The publication appears to be an entirely new animal.

But like the butterfly, change brewed under the surface for some time before the newsletter spread its new wings. Rather than integrate the new title and logo in steps, along with making changes in design and content, Media Relations staff decided to reconstruct the publication all at once.

News & Views, the name and the newsletter, served the university well. We intend the new Inside Oregon to do the same, with a few enhancements and shiny new wings.

We would like to hear from you. Please address your comments to <inside@oregon>.
Major UO Building Projects Move Swiftly

by Joel Gorthy

Is Autzen Ready for Some Football?

With the season’s first UO home football game only a month away, construction workers from Hunt-Wildish Joint Venture are doing their best Joey Harrington impression.

Like the current Detroit Lions quarterback did so many times at Autzen, workers on the $90-million stadium renovation are leading a last-minute drive to make the facility football-ready for the Ducks’ Aug. 31 opener against Mississippi State.

While the renovation ultimately won’t be completed until late in the season, the stadium should be ready by Aug. 15 to hold about 12,000 more fans than last year in its expanded south side. Total capacity will increase to more than 44,000.

The structural work on the stadium—which began right after the end of last year’s final home game—is complete; what remains is primarily cosmetic. Workers now are installing a new FieldTurf playing surface and making other final touch-ups to the stadium’s paint, carpet, tile and seating.

Other key components in the expanded stadium, including 32 luxury skyboxes and a club room for suite holders, won’t be ready for this season, but construction will continue between home games.

While fans await their Aug. 31 date with the “new” stadium, workers continue their determined drive to the end zone.

For a live web cam view of the stadium project, go to <autzen-webcam.uoregon.edu>.

Lillis Business Complex Takes Shape

Structural steel now reaches into the sky at the Lillis Business Complex construction site, giving some shape to a $40-million project that has existed in the minds of Lundquist College of Business officials for several years.

The central building of the new complex, rising on the site of the former Commonwealth Bridge between East and West Gilbert, is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2003. Officials from general contractor Lease Crutcher Lewis say they are ahead of schedule and work has proceeded as planned.

Recent activity at the site has focused on completion of the foundation walls, erection of the steel frame and floor decks on the east side of the building, placement of underground ductwork, water-proofing of new concrete, and demolition of the old west side basement. All subterranean work for the 145,000-square-foot building is scheduled for completion in mid-September; the steel framework should be finished in December.

Concrete pours and utility connections continue, with frequent excavation and equipment traffic on East 13th requiring pedestrian diversions.

Questions or complaints about the project should be directed to Janet Lobue, 6-5259 or <lobue@oregon>. As the university’s full-time project manager, Lobue serves as the primary UO liaison with the contractors.

For weekly updates on the construction schedule or other information about the project, browse <clb.uoregon.edu/complex/>. To see several live web cam views of the site, visit <clb.uoregon.edu/lillis/>.

Joel Gorthy is News Editor of Inside Oregon.

Friendly Summer Commencement Marks Graduates’ Achievements

Summer graduates, family and friends will gather for a cozy commencement ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 17, in the Memorial Quad.

Candidates gather at the north end of the Quad by 9:30 a.m. Students close to completing their requirements may take part even if they are not graduating this term. A reception will follow. If it rains, the ceremony will move to McArthur Court.

Vice President Allan Price, University Advancement, will deliver the Summer Commencement address and Vice President Lorraine Davis, Academic Affairs, will confer the degrees. Faculty Marshall Michael Haley, Chemistry, will be assisted by marshals Kwangjai Park, Physics; Associate Dean Priscilla Southwell, Political Science; and Paul Simons, Anthropology.

Summer graduates and guests will be entertained by a brass quintet led by Jeff Williams, Music. Faculty must order regalia right away; candidates must place their orders at the UO Bookstore before Aug. 12.

For more information, call Rachel Johnson, commencement director, 6-1148, or check <darkwing.uoregon.edu/~stl/comm.htm>.
U.S. Senate Committee Includes $5 Million for UO's Brain Research

by Tim Black

The U.S. Senate moved one step closer this month to empowering UO scientists to discover how the brain thinks and affects human behavior.

On July 18, the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee approved legislation that includes $5 million for the UO’s Brain, Biology and Machine Initiative (BBMI). The funding was included in the FY 2003 Department of Defense appropriations bill. Last month, the House approved its version of the Defense bill with $7 million for the Brain, Biology and Machine Initiative.

BBMI, the UO’s focused research effort, brings together top researchers in psychology, biology, computer science and physics. At the heart of the Brain Biology and Machine Initiative is the acquisition of a high-powered, research-grade (3-Tesla) functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) machine. The UO’s new fMRI facility will permit imaging of brain function and tissue that will allow scientists to better understand the brain’s anatomy as it relates to thought and behavior.

Studies conducted using the new machine will lay groundwork for greater understanding of brain functions such as learning, remembering, experiencing emotions and paying attention. The results of such basic research could lead to wide-ranging applications, from new ways to teach children languages to improved treatment for stroke victims.

Sens. Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith actively support the university’s research initiatives and were instrumental in securing the latest language in the Defense bill. The accomplishment is notable because this type of language is difficult to include in the Senate defense appropriations bill and, at $5 million, represents a significant investment. The delegation has successfully secured funds for BBMI for the past three years. Governmental Affairs works closely with the Oregon Congressional delegation to support its efforts in securing funds and reporting language for BBMI and other UO initiatives.

Once approved by the full Senate, a conference committee will produce final language for the Defense appropriations bill for approval by both chambers. Each year, the U.S. Congress must consider 13 appropriations bills to develop a final budget for the federal government. While the federal fiscal year begins Oct. 1, it is common for final action on spending bills to be delayed. Last year, Congress did not complete work on the FY02 budget and adjourn until December.

Tim Black is Advocacy Director for Governmental Affairs.

Fulbright Scholar Animates Her Own Dream

by Julie Lauderbaugh

Nigar Nazar may live vicariously through her signature cartoon character Gogi, but this year the Fulbright scholar is busy fulfilling her own dreams beyond her famous comic strip.

The 49-year-old Pakistani cartoonist is maintaining her regular strip in Pakistan’s largest newspaper, “Jang,” while visiting the University of Oregon. In July, she taught animation workshops for students and community members at the EMU Craft Center. She will be studying cartooning, puppetry and animation at the UO until February 2003. Her research project is in animation and mascot making with inflatable characters.

Nazar has published several books and recently launched her favorite project to date—seven public service announcements now serve Islamabad bearing comic strips that promote equality and national unity. She also designed and helped create her Web page, <www.gogicomics.com>. In addition, she has done charity drawings for women’s groups in Romania and Pakistan, and an educational book for UNICEF.

But the work of Nazar’s alter ego, Gogi, is much more famous.

In the confines of her cartoon strip, Gogi has successfully raised awareness of environmental issues, tolerance, women’s education and sexual harassment. Now that Gogi’s creator is immersed in academia, the cartoon character will spotlight UO graduates.

Nazar is creating a humorous book for UO graduates at spring 2003 commencement that will include drawings about successful resumes, cover letters and interviews.

Julie Lauderbaugh is an intern in Media Relations.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Melinda W. Grier, President’s Office, was elected second vice president of the National Association of College and University Attorneys during its annual meeting in June.

Geraldine L. Richmond, Chemistry, was honored June 20 by the world’s largest scientific society for encouraging and studied... to study and pursue careers in chemistry. She received the Women Chemists Committee Regional Award for Contributions to Diversity at the American Chemical Society’s Northwest regional meeting.

President Dave Frohnmayer was named a learned fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A national prize-winning author on the U.S. Constitution, Frohnmayer has served as UO president since 1994 and as Law dean from 1992 to 1994. He is among 177 American and 30 international scholars, scientists, artists, educators, executives and public officials the academy named.

IN MEMORIAM

Wayne Gottshall, Romance Languages, died July 1 in Eugene. A 1992 graduate of the UO law school, Gottshall, 46, also earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the university in 1980 and 1988, respectively, and studied... classical guitar at Lewis & Clark College. He practiced criminal law in Eugene before he began working as a UO senior instructor of Spanish. A memorial gathering was held... 7 at GAL.

Clifton C. Cole, Foundation, died July 4 in Eugene from complications of Alzheimer's Disease. A 1952 UO graduate and U.S. Navy veteran, Cole, 73, worked in radio and broadcasting for 29 years and was the Foundation’s director of planned giving for more than 19 years. A memorial service was held July 10. Memorial contributions may be made to the UO Foundation.
CELEBRATIONS!

Saturday, Aug. 17

Summer Commencement. Vice President Allan Price, University Advancement, addresses Class of 2002. 10 a.m. Memorial Quadrangle. 6-1148; <darkwing.uoregon.edu/~stl/comm.htm>.

IN THE GALLERIES

Museum of Art
The MOA is closed through 2003 for a major expansion and renovation project. For information on offsite lectures, films and social events, call 6-3027; <uoma.uoregon.edu/>.

Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland
“Master of Fine Arts/02,” organized by Art and MOA, showcases original art work in an eclectic mixture of media and styles by Master of Fine Arts degree candidates. 9 a.m.–9 p.m. daily. PNCA, 1241 N.W. Johnson St., Portland. 6-3697. First Thursdays artists’ reception 6–9 p.m. Aug. 1. Through Aug. 17.

Museum of Natural History
“Natural Treasures—Native Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest” features 22 limited-edition screen prints by naturalist and scientific illustrator Bonnie Hall, a native Oregonian and UO alumna. The show celebrates the Glen Starlin Courtyard, near the MNH entrance where 120 native species of trees, shrubs, ferns and flowers grow. Through Oct. 20.

LECTURES

Tuesday, Aug. 6
Humanities: Kenneth Liberman, Sociology, “How to Conceive the Relation Between Humans and the Earth: A Perspective from Maurice Merleau-Ponty.” Noon–1 p.m. 353 PLC. 6-3934 or 6-5008.

History: Thao Xiong, president of the Hmong Association of Oregon, speaks and shows video clips about his group’s efforts to preserve their culture in the United States, followed by a short dance demonstration. Hung Luong describes his journey alone, at age 14, from Vietnam to Portland, and his efforts to reconnect with his ethnic heritage by sharing it with U.S. bicycling enthusiasts. Both are guest speakers in the Summer Session class, “A Century of Immigration: 1897–1997.” 3–5 p.m. 214 McKenzie. Vincenzo Scarpati, 343-3887, or 6-4802.

READINGS / FILMS

Wednesday, Aug. 7
Author Event: Warren Jacobs presents his “Tree Stories” road show featuring storytelling and sing-along. 7 p.m. EMU Amphitheater. Brian Juennemann, 6-4331; <www.uobookstore.com/generalbooks/author_evt.cfm>.

WORKSHOPS

Through Aug. 13
Information Technology: The IT Curriculum offers workshops on using information technology for all UO faculty, staff and current students, novice to advanced. First-time, first-visited; no preregistration needed. 144 and 2678 KL. 6-1817; <libweb.uoregon.edu/it/>.

THEATER

Tuesday–Sunday, July 30–Aug. 3
Mad Duckling Summer Theatre: “Pinocchio Commedia” uses commedia style staging to tell the beloved story of the puppet who becomes a real boy. In true commedia fashion, a troupe of clownish strolling players mount the stage and present the story of Geppetto, a puppet maker who longs for a real boy. Appropriate for audiences of all ages. 11 a.m. RT; as nearby construction noises and traffic permit, performances may move outdoors to the amphitheater adjacent to the south side of RT. $ Purchase tickets at the theater on performance days or reserve them in advance by phone. 6-4192. Continues Aug 6–10.

Friday, Aug. 2
LERC/Lane Labor Council Play: As part of the Oregon AFL-CIO Summer School, the Oregon premiere of Ian Ruskin’s remarkable one-man play recreates the life of legendary West Coast labor leader Harry Bridges who led the landmark 1934 general strike in San Francisco and went on to lead the longshoreman union for 40 years. The play, a human portrayal of Bridges’ passion, struggles and wicked sense of humor, features Bridges’ own words, from his rallying speeches of the 1930s and his electrifying testimony at his trials to the words of his contemporaries. 8 p.m. EMU Ballroom. 6-2781.

MISCELLANY

Wednesday, July 31
Caregiver Support Group: Confidential and educational support for UO community members who are caring for loved ones with any form of senile dementia, facilitated by the Eugene Regional Office of the Alzheimer’s Association Oregon/ Greater Idaho Chapter. No registration required; new members always welcome. Noon–1 p.m. EMU Rogue Room. 6-2962. Monthly, except December, on the last Wednesday of each.

Wednesday, Aug. 21
Fall Semester 2002 law classes begin. 6-3852.

Wednesday, Aug. 28
Caregiver Support Group: See July 31 entry.

WEAKLY

Friday
• Oregon Ballroom Dance: 7:30–11:30 p.m. 220 Gerlinger. 5-6025; <ballroom.uoregon.edu/>.