

Shortfall brings budgets back to drawing board

The state's university presidents have returned to their chalkboards to figure out ways to stretch their budgets after learning in early May that tax revenues may not be as high as projected this year and next.

State tax commission officials predict a \$20 million shortfall for the current fiscal year which ends June 30. While that won't force universities to cut programs, it does take away the \$2 million supplemental appropriation the legislature approved for library and equipment purchases, including \$200,000 that was to furnish the Morrison Center.

But the shortfall, if it develops, for the next fiscal year could be more serious. Officials are predicting a \$20-27 million drop in projected revenues, and state agency heads have been warned that a spending holdback between 3.5 and 4.5 percent could be imposed.

A holdback of 3.5 percent would mean a loss of about \$2.8 million for higher education, according to Executive Director of the State Board of Education Charles McQuillen.

Boise State President John Keiser said the university's constituents should react to the shortfall by increasing public awareness of higher education's needs.

"We ought to indicate to decision-makers that the budget is inadequate. The people of the State of Idaho, in our opinion, are suffering as a result of it.

"Higher education has more to contribute than it's being given credit for, being given support for," Keiser said.

He also said the university will accentuate the positive, rather than the negative.

"We have no choice but to ensure that the revenues we have access to are spent effectively and appropriately. We will spend our time on the positive administration of the dollars we do have rather than complaining about the dollars we don't have," he explained.

"We have an obligation to either do the best we can or get out of the business."

News of the revenue shortfall came just after the State Board of Education approved a \$75 fee increase for full time students. That fee was levied to supplement university budgets after the legislature left the schools with less than they requested.

The shortfall, however, could at least partially offset the increased revenues from fees, according to McQuillen.

"A 3.5 percent holdback at this point basically will mean that the fee increase we passed on the assumption that it would be used for program improvement will do nothing more than replace dollars lost in the holdback. Again, people will be paying more and getting less," McQuillen said.

Keiser said he was "cynical" about the timing of the fee increase and announcement of the possible holdbacks.

"The relationship between the

revenue projection, the 4 instead of 4½ percent sales tax, the increase in the student fee, and the revenue shortfall have to be viewed by some as skeptical and perhaps a little more than consequential. Hopefully, that's

not true, but there's no way to avoid cynicism on that one," he said.

The move toward equity in university budgets could also be set back if the shortfall occurs, McQuillen said. At the April meeting, the Board

approved a complex funding formula which attempts to provide equal funding for students at all four institutions of higher education.

The formula distributed \$42.6 million. (Continued on page 5)



Bill Burnham, director of the World Center for Birds of Prey, addresses the crowd of 300 at the center's dedication ceremony. The center, affiliated with Boise State, will bring in researchers and students from around the world.

Peregrine center dedicated in Boise

The crackling of microphones and sounds of speechmaking have given way to the pounding of nails and noises of heavy equipment at the World Center for Birds of Prey site, five miles south of Boise.

And soon, those sounds will be replaced by the short, sharp sounds of peregrine falcons in the Center's breeding program.

A dedication ceremony was held May 12 at the site. Construction of a laboratory and office building for the Center, operated by The Peregrine Fund and affiliated with Boise State, began in April. In August, when construction is complete, about 50 pairs of peregrine falcons will be moved to the Center.

Bill Burnham, Peregrine Fund vice-president and Center director, welcomed the group of about 300 at the dedication, calling Idaho "a place where you can still seek a dream." The Center is the dream of the Peregrine Fund and other experts who have helped the falcons, once on the endangered species list, reproduce in captivity and have released more than 1,000 in the wild in the past decade.

Major General Thomas Aldrich, now with Anheuser-Busch, said the teaching and research to be conducted at the Center "are key elements in our efforts to preserve our nation's most precious resource—our wildlife." Anheuser-Busch has

contributed \$450,000 for the Center's construction.

Many of the speakers retraced the efforts bringing the Center to Boise. Under Secretary of the Interior Ann Dore McLaughlin said the federal Recreation and Public Purposes Act allowed the sale of the 280 acres on the Flying Hawk Reserve at the lowest possible price. The land was relinquished by the city of Boise, sold by the Bureau of Land Management and paid for with \$14,000 donated by North American Peregrine Foundation.

Former Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, who advocated the Birds of Prey Natural Area in the 1970s, applauded the actions of the Idaho Fish and Game, the Bureau of Land Management and conservationists who helped bring the Center here. "You had the vision that went beyond the end of your nose," he said.

Boise State President John Keiser said the university is honored to be affiliated with the Center because BSU "dedicates itself to the study of the appropriate balance between man and nature in Idaho."

Tom Cade, Peregrine Fund president, traced the group's beginnings at Cornell University in 1970, and said he never dreamed that there would be three regional programs (headquartered in New York, Colo-

rado and California), let alone a World Center.

The Peregrine Fund chose Boise over other locations about a year ago, after being invited here by Boise State. Cade said support, interest and enthusiasm of the community and industry was a major factor in that decision.

725 grads at ceremony

More than 725 graduates, the largest number in the school's history to attend a graduation, participated in the 50th Boise State University Commencement ceremonies May 13 in the Pavilion.

Of the 1,581 candidates for graduation this year, 31 graduated *summa cum laude*, 83 *magna cum laude*, and 166, *cum laude*.

BSU President John Keiser exhorted those attending to recall their major accomplishments and those of the university during their years at BSU, including the recent opening of the Morrison Center, the lecture series sponsored by the Frank Church and Len B. Jordan endowments, and the year-long 1984 and *Beyond* lecture series.

Those accomplishments and many (Continued on page 5)