

Wyatt removes Travis, cites 'impasse'

ASUO President Bill Wyatt removed ASUO Chief Administrative Officer Tim Travis from his position last Friday because of what he termed "an

By TORRIE McALLISTER
Of the Emerald

irreconcilable impasse that developed between Travis and ASUO Vice President Fred Loveys."

Travis, one of three administrative officers appointed by the executive, administered

the ASUO programs and acted as the executive's liaison with the senate.

"Loveys and Travis are two completely different people. There will never be a time or place where they'll be able to work together. For this reason I don't think you can pin my decision to let Travis go on any one individual," Wyatt said Monday.

"I couldn't spend all my time reconciling their differences. I know I've been criticized a lot for the amount of time I spend at the legislature, and I probably will be criticized more in the future.

"But, as far as I'm concerned,

the issues that directly effect students, like getting property tax relief for renters, a student voice on the State Board of Higher Education and an increased budget for the library, are in Salem . . . I couldn't spend all my time on campus keeping Fred and Tim from each other's throats," Wyatt said.

Of the two, Travis just happened to be in the appointed position where the President has authority over hiring and firing, Wyatt said. Loveys, on the other hand, is an official elected by the students.

He added that this did not necessarily mean that he would

have let Loveys go if it had been an option.

Travis commented Monday on his dismissal:

"I want to emphasize that I was fired and didn't resign," he said. "We disagreed on a lot of things all year . . . mostly policy matters, and it was impossible for dissent to exist any longer in the executive."

Travis, an announced candidate for ASUO President next year, declined to go into detail, but said he would have statements to make later this school year.

"You realize I must protect myself as a political commodity," he said.

Wyatt said he was not yet sure how he would go about filling the vacancy left by Travis. Because of time limitations, he said he might not advertise for the position.

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Washington--Jefferson St. Bridge

Community group opposes First Avenue ramp closure

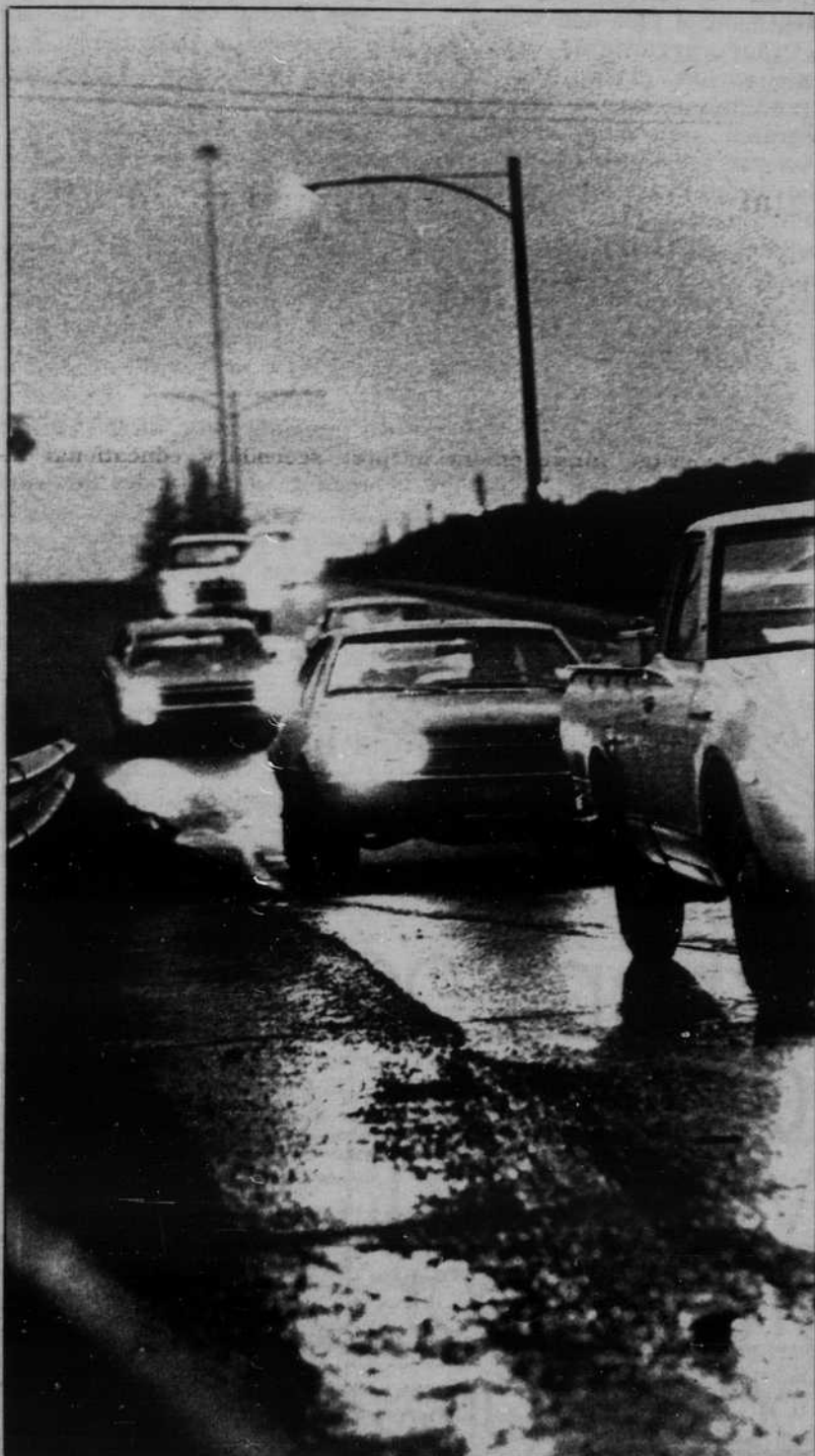


Photo by Steve Twedt

The Jefferson St. off-ramp is clogged with heavy traffic exiting onto First Avenue during the afternoon rush-hour. Present plans call for the city to close this temporary ramp but a Eugene Neighborhood group is attempting to keep it open.

The Whiteaker Community Action group wants the temporary ramps at First Avenue onto the Washington-Jefferson Street Bridge to become permanent ramps.

The ramps are slated to be closed in three months when the bridge extension to Sixth and Seventh Avenue is due to be completed.

Traffic congestion was the reason given by the neighborhood group for its opposition to the closing of the ramps that are presently in use. The Whiteaker Community Action group has collected more than 3500 signatures on a petition and has been granted a hearing before the city council in the near future.

However, the main target of the neighborhood group is the State Highway Division. The state office will make the final decision in the matter.

The highway division has appeared before the community group and argued that it is necessary to close the ramps for safety reasons. According to the highway division, in order to make the First Avenue ramps safe, it would be necessary to close the Sixth and Seventh Avenue ramps, presently under construction, and redesign the bridge.

The Whiteaker Community Action group acknowledges that the state has a valid argument concerning safety factors. What they would like to see is the First Avenue ramps being redesigned to make them safer.

The city has signed a contract with the state for the construction of the Washington-Jefferson bridge according to the present plans. These plans called for the First Avenue ramps to be used temporarily between first and second stages of construction.

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