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Snow topples trees, prompts pranksters

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Of the Emerald

A white carpet covered the campus late Sunday night and early Monday morning, as four inches of snow fell on the University and most of Eugene.

While many students found late night pleasure building snowmen and throwing snowballs, motorists and pedestrians suffered the aftereffects of the snowfall this morning.

An EWEB power outage early this morning and a tree limb that fell through a window in Condon Hall kept University physical plant employees busy, said director Harold Babcock.

Otherwise, there were no major problems, Babcock said.

When the snow began to fall last night at about 10 p.m. dorm residents made the most of a rare appearance, bombarding cars on Agate Street and sculpting snowmen. Students and faculty at the music school were greeted by an anatomically correct snowwoman, who adorned the music school's front lawn.

At press time no one had claimed responsibility for the snowduck that appeared outside the faculty club across from the EMU.

The jubilation of the students didn't cause any

major problems and the snow itself netted little in the way of crises, but their were some minor problems.

"We're taking care of the snow the best we can," Babcock said, "but it's real sloppy and slippery out."

The major walkways around the University have been shoveled and will be the only areas cleared because the physical plant lacks enough staff to clear all of the paths, Babcock said.

Only one accident was reported to campus security, a "fender-bender" in one of the parking lots.

"It doesn't look bad now, we're gonna keep our fingers crossed," Babcock said, "but if it freezes tonight, it could be kind of nasty walking around in the morning."

Meanwhile, the rest of Eugene is recovering from its first major snowfall since 1975.

Public school and Lane Community College students took an extra day off, as clear skies and a bright sun helped ease Monday morning's icy road conditions. School representatives said schools may remain closed if the bad weather continues.

However, University registration proceeds as scheduled today.

Students returning from California vacations by car Monday afternoon had difficulties getting to Eugene in

time to register as heavy snowfall closed Interstate 5 in the Siskiyou. I-5 south of Portland was open, but packed snow made for hazardous driving conditions, according to state police.

In Central Oregon, hazardous roads and blizzard conditions forced the closure of Highway 20 over the Santiam Pass and the Willamette Pass, Highway 58.

Mahlon Sweet Airport in Eugene was open Monday afternoon, following sporadic closures due to snowfall.

Lane Transit District buses continue to operate throughout the city, although several routes have been shortened or closed because of icy roads. Several buses that serve the University, including the Fox Hollow, 30th Avenue Shuttle, Laurel Hill, Bailey Hill, City View and Crest Drive buses will have slightly altered routes until conditions improve, said LTD employee Marylee Bohrer.

"We test the roads first," Bohrer said, "then we tell the drivers 'hey, we don't want you to go this way.'"

State police said no traffic deaths were reported in Lane County since the snow began to fall.

The National Weather Service forecast scattered snow showers Monday night, with decreasing snow Tuesday and partial clearing.



Photo by Bob Baker

Viewed from the ninth floor of Prince Lucien Campbell Hall, footprints leave lasting impressions of the back to school shuffle.

Higher ed's share equals \$28 million

Atiyeh calls for \$147 million budget slash

SALEM (AP) — Gov. Vic Atiyeh Monday recommended \$147 million in state budget cuts that he said would require laying off about 500 state employees.

The governor also delayed the start of a special legislative session from next Monday to Jan. 18. He said legislative leaders sought the delay to give committees added time to study his budget recommendations.

Atiyeh's plan would cut spending at various state agencies an average of 10 percent.

One of the most drastic effects of Atiyeh's spending cut plan would slice \$28 million from the higher education budget and require academic and classified employees of the state college system to take more than two weeks of leave without pay.

Atiyeh recommended a \$16 million reduction in the budget for state aid to elementary and secondary schools in the 1982-83 fiscal year. Because enrollments are lower than expected, the state would continue to pay about 36 percent of local school costs even with the proposed reduction, he said.

The largest state agency, the Human Resources Department, would shoulder cuts totaling \$68 million out of a two-year budget of \$772 million. The department operates programs ranging from prisons to welfare.

In addition to spending reductions, Atiyeh proposed speeding-up employer payments of withholding taxes and an increase in beer and wine taxes to head off a projected deficit now estimated at \$237.2 million.

"My recommendations will adjust state spending to correspond to current economic conditions while maintaining essential state services," Atiyeh said in a budget message to the lawmakers.

"I believe that many of these adjustments are temporary, and it is my hope that some services to Oregonians will be restored by 1983 when our economy improves."

Atiyeh didn't propose any reduction in the \$538 million budgeted for homeowner and renter property tax relief but recommended that the state quit giving relief to households with more than \$50,000 annual income.

The governor estimated the change would save the state as much as \$20 million in the 1982-83 fiscal year, but he didn't include the savings in his budget plan. He said any unspent tax relief money would be added to reserve funds.

Atiyeh acknowledged that there is sentiment among lawmakers to carve into tax relief dollars. But the governor said he strongly opposes using the program to help balance the budget.

Most of the \$100 million in proposed added revenue in Atiyeh's plan would come from accelerating employer withholding tax payments for a one-shot income increase of \$72 million in the 1982-83 fiscal year.

Employers, beginning July 1, would be required to send the state tax money withheld from employees' pay within six days of paydays instead of within 45 days as under current law.

The budget crunch is caused by plummeting forecasts of income tax collections, which make up 85 percent of the state's \$3 billion, two-year general fund budget.



Gov. Vic Atiyeh