

Atiyeh's recovery plan: feint or solution?

Gov. Vic Atiyeh's proposed remedy for the economic condition of Oregon may be a case of a solution that's too little too late.

Atiyeh, in his State of the State address Monday, advanced a recovery plan that will cost the state almost \$2 million. It seems awkward for Atiyeh to be addressing a special session of the legislature concerned with correcting a \$240 million deficit on spending money. To propose spending state money at this time is rather like a Captain ordering a stop to bailing the sinking boat because the tide is going out.

Essentially, Atiyeh's plan is to promote Oregon to "high tech" industries looking to locate plants and to advance high-technology programs in higher education is solid and forward-thinking. This is precisely the type of action the state has sorely needed during these four-years of fiscal crisis.

There are those who will say it is Atiyeh's only idea to date. They are not far from wrong. Atiyeh has been anything but strident in his efforts to stem the escalating economic problems of Oregon. He has been content to stand pat on the concept of paring away the state budget while hoping sagging revenues turn around.

However, Atiyeh's recovery plan comes at the wrong time. Higher education will still be cut in the special session. The amount varies from \$60 million to \$120 million, but nothing has really changed as far as the special session's job of cutting. And that leads us to question Atiyeh's motive in announcing a recovery plan that will take decades to restore the much-needed backbone to the state's weak economy.

Is this recovery plan merely a smokescreen? The optimism inherent in Atiyeh's proposal might

just be a classic political feint drawing attention away from the special session's task of leveling the deficit.

If you are not distracted by the recovery plan you may ask: what will Atiyeh do now?

What he won't do is find immediate sources for revenue within the state. He has reiterated his preference to cut programs in the state budget rather than raise taxes, reduce the property relief tax program, and institute a revocable sales tax.

This stance will be popular with Oregon taxpayers who obstinately oppose increasing taxes regardless of the revenue situation of the state. It will be seen by others as unrealistic in light of the state's immediate economic needs.

Atiyeh's recovery plan is an instance of the progressive action needed to counter future revenue deficits. But it may be a substantial proposal that has come too late. It certainly is too late to master the budget problems the special session now faces.



letters

Rage focused

I am extremely outraged at the Jan. 14 issue of the Emerald. My rage is focused on two of your articles. The first is "The lull before the storm" article, where Ron Hunt accuses the cameraman in Salem of misdirecting his lens from the important news of the day. The second is your placement of "University Update No. 1" on page 8, since in your advertised new outlay of the Emerald, the important news is supposed to be located within the first two pages.

If you and your staff stopped fabricating stories for each issue, then you may realize that a real crisis is taking place on this campus. The governor is on the verge of producing irreparable damage to this university and other schools throughout the state. With such a threat present, your staff should spend less time entertaining your readers and should spend more time informing them.

The members of this student body need critical information now, of which only your staff has the ability to disseminate

quickly. We need to know the names, the home district, address, and the Salem address of our legislators. We need to know their telephone numbers, the boundaries of their districts, and their voting record and stand on higher education issues (so that we will not anger the congresspeople on our side). It would also be useful to know the number of students on campus in each district, so that the legislators will know the extent of their constituency attending school in Eugene. If we are going to react to this threat, we need to know to whom your energies should be directed.

As a side note, if you should find it in your graces to publish such an issue, please be sure to print a double order. I think the students' parents and families would be more than eager for this information as well.

Leon Nawrocki

Sheolistic

I would like to express my extreme disappointment in the manners of the athletic department of this university. A few of the signs that hung from the

balconies in Mac Court on the night of the OSU men's basketball game were garbage to say the least. The persons responsible for the signs have stooped to an all time low. We get enough of that slop in daily life, don't need more slime from the gutter of some depraved mind at a sporting event. Civil war or not, whether in good fun or not, there is no excuse for offensive language. I feel very sorry for those who have to spend their time thinking up such Sheolistic tripe.

Paul Blikstad

Bookstore

My goodness! Doesn't any one remember that University Bookstore began as a co-op, with all University students the (owners) members? It was organized so that price rebates were given to students. Then in 1973-4 the organization was converted to a non-profit cooperation. Non-profits can legally charge any price they wish (upon dissolution, the assets are distributed to a charitable cause...).

The current attempt to create another cooperative for used

books is an idea whose time has come.

Eileen Raymond-Woolen

Injured player?

Currently the Ducks have a number of injured players that are awaiting their return to the team. On Thursday, Jan. 14, I witnessed one of these supposedly injured players participating in a pick-up game during the open hours of the University's gymnasiums. I would like to know what Jim Haney's definition of an injured player is?

If a player is able to participate in a pick-up game, why is he not capable of performing for the Ducks? The University is financing his education to play basketball. If he's not playing basketball for the University why is he here?

When a player is recruited by a university it is his obligation, if he is injured, to aid his recovery so he can quickly return to the line-up.

When supposedly injured players are witnessed playing only two days before a game (Oregon State), it not only brings his injury into question,

but the University Athletic Department's integrity becomes suspect as well.

Robert Sheahon

Free at last

January 15 was Martin Luther King Jr. day. Quite typically there was no mention of the man or what he symbolized in the Emerald. Throughout the country there is a growing movement attempting to commemorate Dr. King by making his birthday a national holiday. The failure of the Emerald to publicize or even recognize this day is a direct reflection on the narrow scope and focus of the paper, and those who put it together.

"His headstone said FREE AT LAST, FREE AT LAST

but death is a slave's freedom We seek the freedom of free men

And the construction of the world

Where Martin Luther King could have lived and preached non-violence." (Nikki Giovanni) Liberation in our lifetime!

George Dunn

staff

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