

Atiyeh should spend more time in Oregon

Rather than spending time in Salem, where the state Legislature's current session is winding down, our governor is once again out of the state.

According to a Wednesday Associated Press story, Gov. Vic Atiyeh left on a "1½-day trip to an undisclosed part of the country." Atiyeh, Oregon's traveling governor, would only tell reporters Wednesday that he was trying to woo a new business client to the state.

Atiyeh's trip comes on the heels of Eugene Mayor Brian Obie's recent junket to the Far East, for the purpose of attracting new business to the Eugene-Springfield community.

During the past few years Oregonians have witnessed a number of similar trips by state officials, for the purpose of "job attraction."

Sen. Margie Hendriksen, D-Eugene, recently criticized Obie's trip, which was funded by federal dollars earmarked for job-training programs in Lane County. Hendriksen charged that the Obie mission was a misuse of these funds.

But supporters of the first-term mayor's Far East effort respond that his mission was within the guidelines established by the federal Job Training Partnership Act.

His supporters say that the Eugene-Springfield area must attract new businesses before it can realistically train potential employees.

We are inclined to agree.

The purpose of any job-training program is to place the chronically unemployed in a stable job. But if the economy is such that no new jobs exist, the training program is of little value.

We believe that job attraction is a legitimate responsibility of state and local officials, but we are concerned that Atiyeh may be abusing this responsibility.

Throughout his seven years in office, Atiyeh has traveled all over the world in pursuit of new businesses for the state. But he has rarely been successful. He has traveled extensively in Asia and throughout the United States, but few businesses have re-located in Oregon after an Atiyeh trip.

At a time when Atiyeh should be in the state as the state Legislature winds down its 1985 session, he is instead once again traveling at Oregonians' expense. Odds are he will once again achieve his usual results.

Al Currey will be missed by all who knew his work

The Eugene-Springfield area lost a valuable community member on Wednesday with the death of A.H. "Al" Currey, the Register-Guard's editorial-page editor. Currey, who had written for the Guard for more than 40 years, died of cancer. He was 64.

Thursday's Guard characterized Currey's writing style as "friendly persuasion" rather than "angry invective."

It went on to say: "Currey focused on local government, planning, public power and economic issues. He wanted the best for his community and its people."

Local community leaders will undoubtedly miss the warmth and insight of Currey's style. While many may have disagreed with some of his issue positions, all respected his opinions.

Al Currey was a fine person who will be missed by all who knew him or read his work.



letters

The only way

Jesus Christ said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me (John 14:6)," this little statement packs a big wallop, for Jesus was clearly claiming that the only way to God was by placing one's faith in Himself, Jesus Christ.

Thus, in one mighty sentence, Christ disclaimed all other religions, spiritual philosophies and speculations. When Jesus said that He Himself was the truth and the only way to God, He was also saying that Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism (which rejects Jesus as the Messiah), Existentialism, Humanism, all cults, other gods, messiahs, idols and "truths" are simply lies, nothing more than bogus shams.

Lies — this is what they are to be regarded as, Christ claimed.

But how could He legitimately make such an outrageous claim? Well, Christ also claimed to be God (God in the body). For example, after Jesus said, "I and the Father are one (John 10:30)" to a group of Jews, they picked up stones to kill Him. When He asked why they were trying to kill Him, the Jews replied, "...because You, a mere man, have declared Yourself to be God (John 10:33)."

How will you respond to Jesus Christ's claims? God demands our worship, love and submission. Because Jesus Christ is God, He is infinitely worthy of our love, worship, and obedience. God's gift still

remains: Eternal life and Paradise to those who place their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Eric Lake
Rhetoric/Communication

You dopes

In the wake of the beer-fueled soccer riot in Belgium, no one can deny that alcohol is the major drug problem in the world today. Try to imagine a stadium full of dope-smokers running amok like drunken Liver-puddians. Or better, consider what Woodstock might have looked like if half a million freaks had traded in their joints for brews. Not a pretty thought.

And yet, with the victims of booze-induced brutality not even buried, the Emerald callously runs a glossy supplement glorifying the "Beer Force." This utter disregard for the epidemic of alcohol abuse is the height of social irresponsibility. It's time for the Emerald to get out of the business of pushing drugs, legal or otherwise.

Larry Taylor
Linguistics

Big challenge

Thanks for Scott McFetridge's insightful piece on the mysterious disappearing apartheid protester (Reporter's Notebook, ODE, June 3). Spontaneous, empowering protest feels great, and can once in a while accomplish something in one brave swoop — but this is by far the exception.

The unsettling reality is that it takes a steady amount of uncompromising personal sacrifice to effect lasting non-violent social change. Most college students (and people from any other quarter of American society) just aren't ready for that one.

The recent anti-apartheid actions, while loftily termed "nonviolent civil disobedience," had only a few of the necessary elements of a Gandhian satyagraha campaign. Despite repeated statements that "this is only the beginning," any student of serious nonviolent direct action campaigns could see that the thing was destined to run out of steam.

If we're actually serious about

changing South Africa, or U.S. policy in Central America; or if we find it worthwhile to try averting the oncoming nuclear holocaust, then we will seriously consider whether we have selected the right tools for the job, and whether we possess the know-how to properly use those tools.

We will admit to ourselves that we must indeed become and remain students. We need to re-learn and refine our concepts of power, with an eye to shifting any given power base such that the sought-after changes occur with minimal human suffering attached.

This can be done. But it is a lifetime challenge, not a sunny-day lark.

Vip Short
Eugene

Fallacy

With so many caring, responsible couples who'd give anything for the opportunity to adopt a baby, it's a shame "pro-choicers" promote the "unwanted child" argument to justify abortion.

The current shortage of adoptable infants exists because public schools — at least those I've attended and the media establishment generally promote abortion as the "easiest, quickest solution" to unwanted pregnancy, while ignoring the adoption alternative. Worse yet, the "pro-choice" movement tends to be unfairly critical of adoption and far exaggerates so-called "harmful" effects on mother and child.

Well, I was adopted and I wouldn't hesitate to endorse adoption over abortion! Ask any adopted person which alternative they wish their biological mother had taken. I know of absolutely no adoptee who wishes their mother had aborted them.

It might be difficult placing a child up for adoption, but its future will be brighter if adopted by parents willing to provide him/her a good home. That certainly beats being aborted and thrown into an incinerator. In adoption, opportunity exists — abortion ends every chance the baby has to bless our world with its unique capabilities and talents.

Michael Cross
History/Political Science

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