

editorial

Two-parent families need year-round aid

The 1985 Oregon State Legislature passed a measure designed to provide families in which both parents are unemployed with welfare benefits on a year-round basis. Two bills were passed, one allocating \$17.1 million to the program and one providing for federal matching funds of \$27 million, to fund the program. Both bills were signed by Gov. Vic Atiyeh earlier this summer.

However, during a news conference last Thursday, Atiyeh surprised legislators by confirming that he was thinking of reducing the program from year-round assistance to assistance for only six months per year.

Through the program, which will be implemented in 1986, qualified two-parent families with two dependent children will be eligible to receive a maximum payment of \$468 per month, medical coverage, and job-finding assistance. A single parent of two dependent children receives a maximum payment of \$368 per month in addition to the other services.

If the program is reduced to a six-month program, a two-parent family in which both parents are still unemployed after the six-month period would have only two options. They could try to survive without public assistance funds, or one of the adults could leave so that the remaining parent could receive assistance provided for a single parent. As long as a single parent meets eligibility requirements, he/she can receive public assistance year-round.

Because the state does not currently provide assistance for unemployed two-parent families, this would leave many couples in the position that they are in now. Many couples would have no other choice but to separate.

The state does not provide any cash assistance programs for adults without children unless they can demonstrate that they are not eligible for any kind of employment, due to incapacitation, for a minimum of 60 days after applying. Therefore, the state's assistance programs are primarily designed to help the children of unemployed parents. But when the programs limit assistance to single-parent families, it is the children who lose the most.

If parents must separate, the children lose the guidance and nurturing of one parent, and a valuable role-model. They also must deal with the stress of having their parents separate, and the burden of being raised by a parent with increased responsibilities.

Separation doesn't do the parents any good, either. Spouses lose the emotional support they receive from one another. The spouse that retains custody of the children is required to surmount the task of raising children without the help of another adult, and is faced with the additional problem of finding and paying for childcare while seeking employment. Parents who cannot afford childcare may have to leave even young children home alone while they search for a job.

The parent that relinquishes custody must undergo the pain of being separated from the family, and must find a way to provide child support.

The two-parent support program is an effective way to deal with the problem of parents having to separate in order to provide for their children. Cutting the program from a year-round program to a six-month program will undermine the entire purpose. Many families will still be faced with separation.

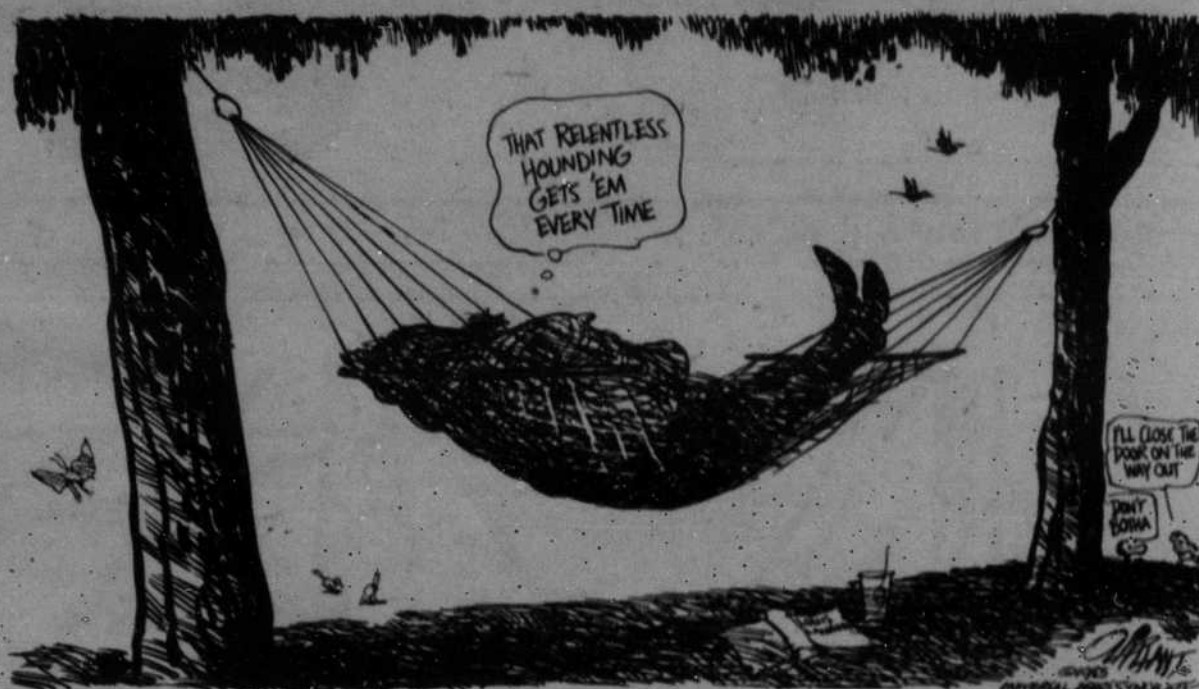
Atiyeh signed Senate Bill 350, the bill tying the program to federal matching funds, again on Friday in a ceremonial signing called for by the program's supporters. He declined to comment on his earlier remarks that he was thinking about reducing the program, however, disclosing only that he would be deciding "very shortly."

By signing the bills, Atiyeh has, in effect, already given his approval of the full-year program. Legislative support of the program has been demonstrated, and the money to fund the program is available. Atiyeh is stepping out of bounds by announcing that he may withhold funds from the program. We hope that he honors the wishes of legislators and the people they represent by retaining the full-year program.

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.



HOUNDED RELENTLESSLY ON APARTHEID BY THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, SOUTH AFRICA HAS WITHDRAWN ITS AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.

letters

Victims

Unfortunately, the Emerald failed to adhere to its own policy of not accepting advertisements which discriminate against women and people of color for the recent ads (ODE July 25 - Aug. 1) placed on behalf of the restaurant, China Delight.

There are many victims of this type of journalism, but the greatest victims of these ads are the owners of the restaurant. This family business of good people placed their trust in an American friend's business sense. They do not read English and did not understand the connotation of the advertisement.

The advertisements were sexist and racist. Sexist because they presented women as products to be sold like food and music.

The ads perpetuate cultural standards which encourage negative attitudes toward women as victims of violence. Racial discrimination is reflected in the characterization of Chinese women as prostitutes and is reminiscent of the slave trade of the early 1900s.

Just as demeaning is the use of Pidgin English to portray Asian people. The use of this type of English reinforces the myth that Asians and Asian-Americans are incapable of correct use of the language; and furthermore, it contributes to the stereotype that people who

speak broken English are inferior.

Clearly, responsibility for advertisements rests with the Emerald, and cannot be shirked by the staff. Increased staff training regarding discriminatory issues is required.

The Emerald owes a public apology for offensive journalism to the restaurant owners, its readers, especially to the Asian, Asian/Pacific, American community, and to all women.

Dianna Kale
Council of Minority Education

Cindi Kim
Asian/Pacific - American Student Union

T. Lien Shutt
Rape Crisis Network

Definition

Recently a petition to ban "classified research" at the proposed Riverfront Research Park has been circulated. While the concerns behind this petition are laudable, the petition itself is too vague to determine what research would be permissible, because the term "classified" is never properly defined, and often confused with "military" or "weapons."

What does "classified" mean? Is it "classified by the U.S. governmental agencies?"

Would proprietary research restricted from publication still be permissible? Would research subject to the lapse of "reasonable" time limits before the publication of results or methods be "classified?" Could "reasonable" be determined on a field by field or case by case basis? Could research be performed by proprietary methods, but its results be published? What about "raw data," which could not be published for proprietary or ethical reasons, but which could be used for statistical evaluation? If the results could be published, would the research be "classified?"

The real world is complicated enough to deserve a well differentiated treatment. Molecular biologists, just like geologists, are not qualified to draft a workable "standard of permissible research."

May I therefore suggest that those concerned about "classified" research enlist the help of some sympathetic members of the Law School to draft such a standard. With such a document in hand, the planning commission could estimate its impact on the success of the research park and address the concerns behind the request to ban "classified research."

Nikolaus von Bargaen
Geology

oregon daily emerald

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