

political points with union members — a fact highlighted by comments from OPEU workers at the end of the post-strike rally.

"I think we took on the governor, and we won. And I hope he pays attention," said Bev Davis, an Adult and Family Services worker.

'I think we took on the governor, and we won. And I hope he pays attention.'
— Bev Davis

Terry Hooton, a custodian at Hamilton Housing, was more direct. "I hope he (Goldschmidt) gets a recall."

Rhetoric and contingency

As with most strikes, this one was not without sharp rhetoric. Both the state and the union offered their fair share of verbal barbs and threats, but the most ominous words came from management.

Within the first few days of

the walkout, the state declared the strike was illegal. The state maintained OPEU's tactic of a strategic or "rolling" strike — picketing state agencies at random — violated Oregon law.

"The union made a mistake in giving us the (strike) notice...the timing of the notice was wrong," Dave

dinghe, a University land architecture secretary, said last week.

The state also cited a rolling strike was unlawful. "They gave a general strike notice, implying everybody in the OPEU was going to be on strike," Fiskum said.

Fiskum cited the case of school district strikes to illustrate the state's position. To prevent teachers from arbitrarily walking out of classrooms, tactical strikes were ruled illegal for instructors. "Clearly this ruling has implications on the state level," Fiskum said.

Although the state was prepared to bring legal action against the union, such measures never materialized. However, the state had plans to get tough with striking workers at three of Oregon's psychiatric hospitals.

If employees at Oregon and Dammasch State hospitals and the Eastern Oregon Training and Psychiatric Center had not returned to work this Tuesday,

Fiskum said they would not be allowed to return to their jobs until a settlement was reached.

Fiskum refused to call this a "lockout" policy, but rather a "window of opportunity" for hospital strikers.

"We're giving people a chance to come back to work, and if they choose to lock themselves out, so be it," he said.

On campus, the administration's response to the strike lacked the state's confrontational tone.

"There's no possibility of strikers losing their jobs or being locked out as long as the strike is legal," Linda King, director of the Department of Human Resources, said.

The administration differed with the state in that the University viewed the strike as legal. Moreover, campus management did not engage in caustic rhetoric.

After the strike, University President Paul Olum reflected the University's relaxed stance

toward the walkout.

"We're delighted to have them back to work," Olum said. "It's ended without bitterness, as far as I can see."

"Those people are very important to us...the classified people here keep this university running," Olum added.

Although Olum remained in the management camp during the strike, he said he did believe OPEU workers have been underpaid. "They did have reason to get paid more than they were," he said.

The union: past and present

OPEU was founded in 1945 when then Republican Gov. Earl Snell requested state employees organize so they could collectively bargain with the state.

The union became affiliated with the Services Employees International Union in 1980, and shortly after fell on hard times when Oregon plunged into a recession.

Ant, however drug addicts in Eugene can be. The game here is "Name that hallucinogen," and it doesn't cost the observer a dime. That man outside of Taylor's, is he on mushrooms, or a quaalude derivative? You be the judge.

Categorization usually is tied to a wage freeze with the understanding it would receive compensation when the state could afford it.

OPEU officials saw the time for compensation was this year, and took their grievances to the state. The stage for the strike was set after the union's contract expired in March 1987, and OPEU perceived the state was reluctant to concede to union demands.

Although this was OPEU's first strike since its inception, evidence suggests there was strong support for employee grievances both in and out of the union. University faculty appeared decidedly in favor of OPEU's walkout, and faculty

Turn to, OPEU, Page 5

Before you choose a long distance service, take a close look.



You may be thinking about choosing one of the newer carriers over AT&T in order to save money.

Think again.

Since January 1987, AT&T's rates have dropped more than 15% for direct-dialed out-of-state calls. So they're lower than you probably realize. For information on specific rates, you can call us at 1 800 222-0300.

And AT&T offers clear long distance connections, operator assistance, 24-hour customer service, and immediate credit for wrong numbers. Plus, you can use AT&T to call from anywhere to anywhere, all over the United States and to over 250 countries.

You might be surprised at how good a value AT&T really is. So before you choose a long distance company, pick up the phone.



AT&T

The right choice.

PEDAL FOR PEACE '86



BIKE-A-THON FOR PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Altam Beach Park to Armistage Park and McKenzie View Drive (20 miles)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 10AM

PRIZES FOR RIDERS I

Register by September 26th at your local bike shop or call CISCAP at 485-1755.

A benefit for the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador sponsored by the Committee in Solidarity with the Central American People.