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**'The factors that have gone into my decision do not just include this year's win-loss record, but also the trends that have been developing over the last few years.'**

— Bill Byrne,  
athletic director



## Byrne: Monson firing 'not easy'

□ Declining performance and sharp drop in ticket sales prompted decision

By Jayson Jacoby  
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Don Monson era is over. Oregon athletic director Bill Byrne ended more than a month of speculation about the future of the Ducks' nine-year head coach by announcing at a March 17 press conference that Monson would not be retained for the final two years of his \$81,520-per-year contract.

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Monson's position had been considered in jeopardy for the last half of the season, which ended with a 6-21 record, Monson's worst in Eugene and Oregon's worst since 1957.

Oregon lost 19 of its last 21 games and failed to win a road game. The Ducks also suffered their worst loss ever, 104-53 to Arizona, and their

worst McArthur Court loss, 104-56, also to the Wildcats.

"This has not been an easy decision, and I make it with great reluctance," Byrne said. "The factors that have gone into my decision do not just include this year's win-loss record, but also the trends that have been developing over the last few years."

Monson, who compiled an overall 116-145 record at Oregon, led the Ducks to a disappointing 13-15 mark last season. Monson did collect four winning seasons during his tenure, including three National Invitational Tournament bids, the last in 1989-90.

"There are a number of factors that go into making a decision such as this one," Byrne said. "But the primary one is that our future does not look any brighter. Our level of performance seems to be dropping, and the Pacific-10 Conference seems to be getting stronger and stronger."

Possibly even more damaging to Monson, however, was the precipitous drop in fan support this season. Oregon's home attendance was the lowest

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## Fowl play



Photo by Jeff Paslay

A duck takes her family on a tour of their home near the millrace on a pleasant Sunday afternoon. A little rain is likely today, with clearing in the early evening. Highs in the lower 60s.

## Housing plans get mixed response

□ Amazon rebuilding project would improve living conditions, raise rents

By Rivers Janssen  
Emerald Reporter

Students gave mixed reviews to new family housing plans, some reacting positively to the designs and others worrying about the high housing costs.

The University's Student Housing Project held an informational open house March 20, detailing the proposed construction of additional student family housing.

Floor plans and slides of the proposed units were displayed, including an entirely rebuilt Amazon Family Housing complex and several new units in the East Campus area.

The design for each unit was relatively sparse, with plans to use only the cheapest durable materials for construction.

The rents, however, are projected to be fairly high. The estimate given at the open house was as high as \$500 a month for each unit, a cost that could be reduced if other housing units, such as Westmoreland, shoulder some of the price.

Student housing is currently \$142 a month at Amazon housing and \$161 at Westmoreland.

James Fisher, a graduate student in architecture who

lives in the Amazon complex with his wife and child, wondered if students now living in the Amazon complex will be able afford a \$500 bill.

"Right now, we have low-cost housing," Fisher said. "We're choosing to live there because it's inexpensive. The poor condition of the Amazon complex is what we're paying for."

"If the rent were increased by \$350 a month, that would come out to around \$1,000 a term, which is more than the price of tuition," he said. "Without that money, I couldn't afford to attend school at all."

Nancy Wright, director of facilities and capital improvements for University Housing, said the cost of family housing shouldn't be a problem. She said that Westmoreland and other family housing complexes would still be low-cost.

The University will always be able to offer cheap housing to students, Wright said, but in order to improve family housing in the long run, students will have to work together at shouldering the cost.

The units' designers said they hope to offset some of the rent costs with savings in other areas. Amazon project director Frank Gaddini said the new units will have cheaper utilities because of better insulation, in addition to much lower maintenance costs.

The materials used for the project can be sustained for 100 years or more, he said. Maintenance would not

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## WELCOME BACK

Spring term will last 10 weeks, with finals beginning June 8. A reminder: Today is the last day to withdraw with a 100 percent tuition and fee refund.

## CUTBACKS

The University will eliminate 40 non-teaching jobs by June 30. The cuts are in managerial and other non-academic areas, and are in response to Measure 5 budget constraints.

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## 'I DIDN'T INHALE'

Democratic presidential candidates Bill Clinton and Jerry Brown answered charges about marijuana use and ethics Sunday as the April 7 New York primaries neared.

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