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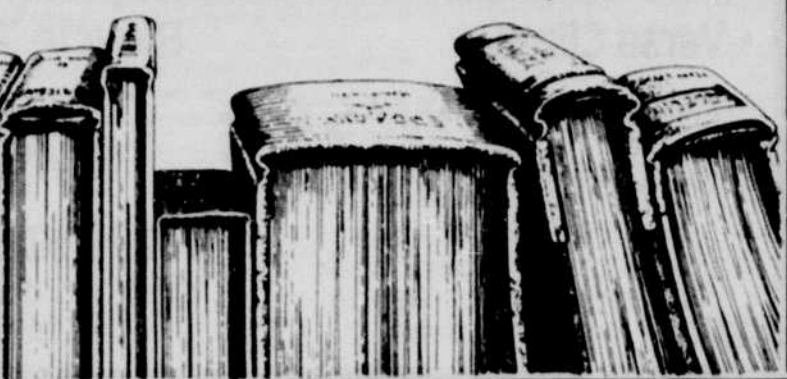
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WHILE YOU WERE AWAY

Byrne to head for Huskers, Brooks accepts AD role

By Rene DeCair
Emerald Associate Editor

While you were gone — just to be honest — the future of higher education went from shaky to trembling.

On the bright side, the University has a new athletic director who, although he has his critics, may whip our athletic programs into shape.

During the summer...

• The Oregon House of Representatives killed a plan submitted by Gov. Barbara Roberts that would have put a sales tax proposal before the voters to solve the state's budget woes.

• Following the lead of House Speaker Larry Campbell, R-Eugene, all of the House's 33 Republicans voted against it. The House Democrats, 26, voted for it.

The vote turned into a showdown between Roberts and Campbell, with Roberts demanding a September vote and Campbell requesting a general election vote on Nov. 3.

Roberts believed a special election was the only way the tax would pass, while Campbell said the only fair play would be to vote in November.

Following the proposal's defeat, the Senate Democrats

pulled some shenanigans by trying to keep the proposal alive in the Senate.

As a result of the mayhem, Senate majority leader, John Kitzhaber, D-Roseburg announced his resignation but was later persuaded to stay.

Now, Kitzhaber and Campbell are together leading an effort to draft a new tax solution proposal.

• University President Myles Brand announced plans to deal with 20-percent budget cuts the University will endure in 1993-95 if new state revenue is not found.

All the universities in the state system of higher education are planning as if the cuts will take place.

The cuts here would mean eliminating 166 positions in the schools and colleges, 139 positions in other academic units, 22 positions in student services and 78 positions in administrative support.

Brand and other administrators decided to eliminate staff positions this time, rather than cut whole programs, which is what happened in 1991-92.

• Athletic director Bill Byrne

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DEAN

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But if any problems persist, Frohnmayer isn't letting on.

"I think the school is a very functioning and exciting place to be," Frohnmayer said during a phone interview. "We have the resource issues that face all schools, but the building blocks are all there in terms of faculty and a strong tradition for teaching law students."

Frohnmayer said there are no active ABA accreditation proceedings, but the law school is due for a routine, on-site review next March. Frohnmayer is eager to begin the review.

"Preparation for that site visit will be a major part of our activities next year," he said. "We're looking forward to it. We have a lot to show."

Frohnmayer pointed to recently downsized classes, a successful fundraising year and the law school's strong national reputation as evidence that the school is laying to rest the problems of the past.

The law school's road to recovery was, in part, paved by the decision to reduce the size of this fall's incoming freshman class to compensate for Measure 5 budget cuts.

The funding dilemma caught the attention of the ABA, which threatened to revoke the school's accreditation if it did not make specific changes, including solving budget problems and improving the faculty-to-student ratio.

The school received more than 2,100 applications for the 145 fall term freshman slots.

"The incoming class is extremely competitive," Frohnmayer said. "We're still very much sought after as a place to learn."

Frohnmayer said the 20-to-1 faculty-to-student ratio has strengthened the school's ability to teach young legal minds.

"We're in a position to have rich and exciting classroom offerings," he said. "We're admit-

ting fewer students, so we are not just a degree mill for students when the job market is tight."

The school's funding problems have also been eased by an outpouring of alumni support. Individual gifts to the school total more than \$690,000 so far this year. Last year, alumni gave about \$380,000.

"We have had our best fundraising year on the side of alumni support," Frohnmayer said.

Frohnmayer also said the law school's national reputation as a bastion of environmental law has helped the school recruit students and faculty.

"We have been at the forefront of environmental law and natural resources law for the past 10 years," he said.

Frohnmayer said the strong environmental programs coupled with the natural beauty of the Northwest draws students and faculty to the school.

"We're competing successfully in the national market in scholarships and students," he said. "A lot of them come because of Oregon itself, its livability and grandeur, and for the broad range of environmental law programs we offer."

Frohnmayer said the school can also boast good business and public law programs, as well as a tradition of affecting legal reforms.

"The Oregon School of Law has made stronger contributions in the world of legislation and legal reform than any other group in the Northwest," he said.

When Frohnmayer became dean, he said one of his priorities was fostering a sense of community within the school. It is a theme that he continues to emphasize.

"As dean, I look at it as a community where everyone has a role," he said. "We need to have a learning environment that teaches and supports. We're all in it together."