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WHILE YOU WERE AWAY

Brooks named new Duck AD

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 the school's 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, and 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 he 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 announced he would leave the University to become athletic director for the University of Nebraska.

Byrne said he believes he can be more successful at his job in Nebraska because there is traditionally more support for higher education and athletics there.

Byrne said, for example, that Nebraskans recently voted for a one-cent sports tax, similar to one that recently failed in Oregon.

However, he said he does regret not having seen Oregon teams play in the NCAA men's basketball tournament or play in the Rose Bowl.

• University head football coach Rich Brooks donned a new hat by becoming the University's new athletic director. He will continue with his coaching duties.

The appointment upset some who believe Brooks should not serve in both capacities. Others believe the University should have used the athletic director vacancy to appoint a woman or minority to the post.



Rich Brooks

Still others question Brooks' qualifications.

But Dan Williams, vice president for administration, said the University didn't need to look far to find the best person to succeed Bill Byrne.

"We asked ourselves if there was a person right here at the University who had the abilities, the necessary experience and the understanding of athletics, our university and the state of Oregon, to provide the leadership required," Williams said. "The answer to that question was 'yes.'"

Brooks will receive \$20,000 annually for his new duties, added on to the \$97,850 base salary he makes as football coach. Brooks' total compensation package will be nearly \$200,000 per year.

The University, it turns out, gets a new athletic director at a bargain if one considers Byrne made about \$88,000 a year when he was athletic director.

Williams insisted the hiring of Brooks was not an economic move, though.

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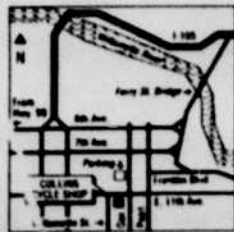
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