

Bill would halt state pay raises



SALEM (AP) — An Oregon House committee sent a bill to freeze state employee wages back to the full House Monday in a new attempt to pass the measure.

However, leaders of the largest union of state workers said, opposition to HB2640 remains as strong as when the bill first ran into trouble and was returned to committee last month.

The first version of the bill prohibited any pay increases through June 30, 1995.

State employee unions lobbied against the bill, saying it denied their legal right to collective bargaining. Backers of the bill conceded they lacked the votes to pass it in the House, so it went back to the House Legislative Rules and Reorganization Committee.

On Monday, the panel approved a revised version on a 5-2 vote. But two of the five backers said they might oppose the measure when it reaches the full House for another vote.

The new version of the bill does not ban negotiations. It says any salary or insurance benefit increases can be paid only from money appropriated for that reason by the Legislature.

So if lawmakers refused to provide the money, there wouldn't be any raises. The intent of the wording is to block a longtime practice of allowing

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— Mari Anne Gest,
Oregon Public Employees union lobbyist

extra money from other areas of agency budgets to be used to pay for wage increases.

The bill would save an estimated \$34 million in general funds in the 1993-95 budget at a time when lawmakers are working to plug a \$1.2 billion budget gap caused by the Measure 5 property tax limit.

Rep. John Watt, R-Medford, chairman of the committee, said the bill needs to be aired in the House and be brought to a vote.

Mari Anne Gest, lobbyist for the Oregon Public Employees Union, said the measure still amounts to interference with collective bargaining.

State employees have become a target of lawmakers frustrated with budget problems, Gest said.

"I look at it as harassment," she said. "As long as they have us to kick around, maybe that will take off the heat for them."

Invention credit conflict sparks armed standoff

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — A dispute over who would get credit for inventions led to a confrontation between former Gonzaga University research colleagues that ended with police talking one of the men into surrendering a shotgun.

Police were called to the standoff between Anwar S. Khattak, 44, and Matsao Shimoji, 41, in a parking lot near Khattak's apartment. The area was blocked off and traffic diverted while officers negotiated with Khattak.

The university was closed Monday for the Easter holiday, but engineering Dean Zia Yamayee earlier said Gonzaga would take no action against Khattak pending outcome of his case.

The confrontation ended without incident when Khattak put the gun down and was arrested, police said. He was booked Thursday night for investigation of intimidation with a weapon and released on bond Friday.

Khattak has taught civil engineering at the independent Jesuit university since 1981. He was named scholar of the year in 1991.

Shimoji was an assistant professor at Gonzaga from 1986 until May 1992, when he was denied tenure. He now teaches electrical engineering at California State University at Chico.

Shimoji, who was visiting Spokane on vacation, claimed his denial of tenure was a result of Khattak taking more than his share of credit for the pair's research.

From 1987 to 1991, Khattak and Shimoji collaborated on several technical projects, including a laser scanner and a device that gives infrared images of highway pavement.

Khattak was listed as primary author of an article about the scanner and was named primary inventor on three patents. Shimoji contends he deserved more than listing as co-author and co-inventor on the projects.

"It was my work, and he gets most of the credit," Shimoji said.

He contends Khattak's promotion to full professor was based on work that he himself should have been credited for.

Yamayee said Friday there were several reasons for denying tenure to Shimoji, but refused to disclose them.

Columbian baby girl will survive

PORTLAND (AP) — A baby girl from Colombia has a good chance at growing up after her foster parents fought government delays and a Seattle hospital's refusal to provide a life-saving operation.

Eleven-month-old Tatiana Rincon was released from Emanuel Hospital & Health Center on Sunday after a 7½-hour operation on April 2 to repair heart defects that had forced her to struggle for breath since birth.

Gloria Herman-Florez, 39, and her husband, Mike Herman, 50, plan to adopt the girl if Colombian officials allow it.

The couple say it took five months to obtain the proper paperwork to bring the girl to the United States.

Herman-Florez had returned to Medellin, Colombia, to attend her father's funeral when she heard about a baby girl who needed a heart operation, and the couple decided to help.

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Any international student may apply to be considered for appointment to ISAC. Selected members will serve as representatives of the international student body as a whole, not as representatives of their own countries.

Application forms and a description of the ISAC's charge, composition, and selection process are available at:

- International Student Association (206 EMU)
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