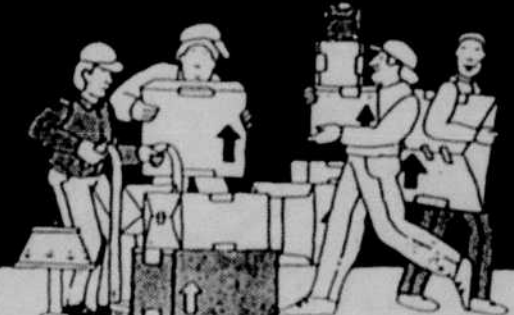




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An open letter to all the wonderful people I met at the University of Oregon Map Library...

Goodbye, it's a pleasure to have known and served you over this last year.

Last Monday, Memorial Day, I committed an oversight that cost me my job. I thought that the library would be closed, so I did not come to work my two hour shift. For this, Peter Stark summarily fired me. The State of Oregon gives him that right.

During my term of employment there, as a student worker, the reviews that I received were extremely favorable. I worked diligently and many library patrons, both students and faculty, appreciated my efforts.

However, I believe that there is more here than meets the eye. I do have legal recourse and will be seeking it.

I'll miss all you nice people...

Robert Bander

May 30, 1995

Repaired dam leaking faster

PRINEVILLE (AP) — The Ochoco Dam is leaking more than twice as fast after \$21 million in repairs, but the government insists there is no danger to this high desert city that lies just down river.

"Everything I've heard is that the likelihood of failure is extremely low, but we're doing contingency planning because the consequences would be so great," said Norm Hesseldahl, a U.S. Forest Service official and spokesman for the project.

This city of 5,625 people lies four miles from the dam, giving residents less than an hour to evacuate if necessary.

Emergency plans include installation of an air raid siren and around-the-clock monitoring, but Hesseldahl insists they are merely precautions.

The 76-year-old earthen dam is leaking at a rate of about 4,000 gallons per minute, more than twice the 1,900 gallons per minute before it was rebuilt.

Engineers will try again this week to use a hydrophone, an instrument designed to pick up sensitive sounds, to listen for the leak. They also plan to use dye to monitor water flow.

John Falk, a Water Resources Department engineer in Salem, said his agency has been closely monitoring the Ochoco Dam. He and federal Bureau of Reclamation officials say the dam is safe and unlikely to fail.

Falk said two big tipoffs that an earthen dam is in trouble are buckling or slumps in the dam and the discharge of dirty water suggesting material is

washing away.

He said there is no sign of buckling or slumping at Ochoco and the water leaking from the structure is clear.

Hesseldahl said the leakage that led to the dam's emergency drawdown and repair beginning in 1993 was deemed serious because it was coming from the wrong place — the "toe" or face.

This time, the flow is coming from a drainpipe designed to catch such leakage. The dam has filters which trap moisture and direct it to specific areas — sort of like funnels.

"All earthen dams leak," Falk said. "Nothing is 100 percent watertight when you build a dam out of soil. That's why you have filters — to herd the water to a central location and drain it through the dam."

The main contractor on repair project, Stimpel Wiebelhaus of Redding, Calif., is sending pumps to the site to be set up some time this week.

The pumps are intended to keep water flowing into the irrigation canal downstream from the dam in the event the outlet pipe has to be closed off for repairs.

A company official who asked not to be named said the chance of a catastrophic failure of the dam is "pretty darn slim."

He added: "The dam was designed to have water leak through. That's what they spent all of their money on."

Legislature wraps up business

SALEM (AP) — Legislative leaders say this likely will be the going home week for lawmakers as they prepare to bring down the curtain on the 1995 session.

Democratic Gov. John Kitzhaber and the Republican majorities in both houses helped smooth the way for adjournment by reaching agreements on the revisions of the workers' compensation and public employee collective bargaining laws.

The Democrats don't like the results but don't have the troops to do much about them.

Budgets often hold the key to ending sessions, and most of the big ones are through one or both houses.

"If we could get the budgets finished Tuesday, we could go home late Tuesday or Wednesday," said Senate Majority Leader Brady Adams, R-Grants Pass.

"The only other things that hold us up now are conference committees," he said.

Those are the joint panels that try to work out compromises when there are contentious differences between House and Senate versions of bills.

Of course, the adjournment estimates are just guesses, and Adams has been issuing overly optimistic predictions for an

adjournment date for several weeks now.

Unexpected fights can develop in the eleventh hour as lawmakers try to breathe new life into ailing bills or keep dead ones buried.

If the Legislature quits by Friday, it will be the earliest ending since the 1960s.

Here's a summary of developments on major legislation during the past week:

TAXES — The Senate passed and returned to the House for action on amendments a bill to extend a 10-cent per pack cigarette tax increase to Jan. 1, 1998. The House rejected Senate amendments to a tax bill that would refund excess income taxes by way of special checks to taxpayers, sending the measure to a joint conference committee. The House agreed to Senate changes to a measure to give tax breaks to employers who hire gang members, sending the bill to the governor.

LABOR — The Senate adopted conference committee changes to a bill to limit collective bargaining rights of public employees, sending the measure to the House. The House completed legislative action on a bill to overhaul the system that compensates people for work-related injuries and illnesses suffered

on the job, sending the bill to the governor. The House approved Senate changes to a measure to create a two-tier pension system for public employees, with different benefits for workers hired after this year, sending the bill to the governor.

LEGISLATURE — The Senate approved and returned to the House for action on amendments a proposed ballot measure that would have the Legislature meet annually instead of every other year. The Senate passed and returned to House for action on amendments a proposed ballot measure to require two-thirds votes of the House and Senate to raise taxes.

PRIVACY — The House passed and sent to the Senate for action on amendments a bill intended to bar using genetic information to discriminate against people seeking insurance or jobs.

HEALTH — A bill to give doctors more legal room to prescribe larger doses of drugs for people who suffer from intractable pain won House approval and went to the Senate for action on amendments. The Senate passed and sent to the House a bill to give more workers access to family medical leave to care for ill children or relatives.



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