

LTD's Reynerson predicts better service, no subsidy

Although foreseeing a slow but steady improvement of service for the University area, Dave Reynerson, Lane Transit District (LTD) planner, said he doesn't believe a reduction of passenger fares is on the horizon.

Reynerson explained that due to the gasoline shortage, the bus system is already overloaded and, at the present time, could not absorb a large increase in ridership.

"We'd be hesitant to engage in an agreement which would allow University students to ride the buses free in return for a subsidy to be paid for by ASUO or the Administration, because of the loads that would be generated," he admitted. "But, we're open to go ahead and develop cost figures (on a subsidy proposal)."

The LTD planner said a committee consisting of representatives of the Transit District, the University, the City of Eugene and the Lane Council of Governments has met infrequently since its formation in mid-1973. The committee has yet to produce a substantive proposal.

Reynerson did, however, speculate on the possibilities of more frequent and convenient service in the months ahead. By fall of this year, he predicted, LTD would provide shuttles from the downtown mall to the campus every 15 minutes during the day. He further conjectured that by fall of 1975, LTD will be providing direct service to the University from areas of dense student population, such as south Eugene. At present, most buses follow an indirect route that stops downtown before going by the campus.

And where it stops, no one knows

Within a few days, a University group is finally preparing to begin negotiations with the Lane Transit District (LTD) to lower bus fares for students.

John Eliassen, co-director of the Survival Center, is spearheading the effort.

"We're the environmental group on campus. It was just logical that we get into it," he explained.

But when the Emerald questioned ASUO vice president Mike Dotten on subsidized busing recently, he said his office had "more pressing problems." The ASUO began examining the possibility of subsidizing student bus fares last spring but their probe ended abruptly when Dotten, who was supposedly investigating the matter left the University last spring to work in Washington D.C. No one took over the investigation and it was largely forgotten until recently. "Wires just got crossed up," Leo explained.

The revival of the idea came with the energy crisis. Now the Survival Center hopes to make

bus travel a more viable alternative to the automobile.

"Our aim is to get some sort of subsidy going in the near future," Eliassen said. The idea may not be immediately feasible. LTD is already experiencing a glut of riders and a shortage of buses. Eliassen said he hopes at least to try to arrange a reduced fare system for non-peak hour riders. Eventually, we would like to see a

free ride for all students," Eliassen added.

Acting University Planner Harry Van Oudenallen, Eliassen and representatives of OSPIRC will meet Thursday to determine busing priorities. On Friday, the delegation will meet with LTD General Manager Fred Dyer to discuss proposals which might be developed in Thursday's meeting.

DANCE '74

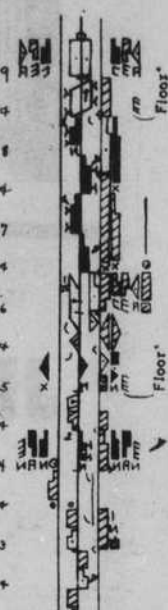
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EPA oks DDT use on tussocks

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Environmental Protection Agency administrator Russell E. Train today gave the U.S. Forest Service standby emergency authority to use DDT against the tussock moth in Pacific Northwest forests.

The decision was revealed to Northwest members of Congress shortly before it was to be announced Tuesday by Train at a news conference in Seattle.

Assistant EPA administrator Charles Elkins told the congressmen and their aides that Train had decided to allow use of DDT if the pest presents "a serious emergency" this summer.

The text of Train's announcement said the Forest Service was not being directed to use DDT against the moth but was given "conditional" authority to use it.

Train's decision was in line with legislation already approved by the House Agriculture Committee to give the Forest Service authority to determine whether DDT should be used.

The Forest Service already has indicated that the pesticide should be used to save forests from being seriously damaged by the tussock moth.

Train said the decision was "in no way" a retreat from a 1972 EPA order cancelling most uses of DDT.

"I remain personally convinced that the use of DDT represents a significant risk to ecological systems and that its use should be avoided whenever possible," Train's prepared statement said.

Oregon State Forester J.E. Schroeder said in Salem any application of the DDT would not begin until June and the decision as to which areas and how wide an area would be involved will not be known until late March or April.

Schroeder said his and other concerned agencies are now

studying the effect of natural viruses on the moth to determine how effective that control method has been.

Also, there will be extensive preparations necessary for the monitoring program that will accompany the spraying.

At a staff meeting, Gov. Tom McCall said the monitoring "is vitally important."

Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) said the decision was "welcome but a year overdue."

He said, as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, he is working with the Forest Service to develop an emergency funding request to finance the spraying program. He said the program probably would cover 650,000 acres.

Sen. Bob Packwood, (R-Ore.) said, "I am delighted that we will now have a chance at last to get rid of this infestation."

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