

Herbicides: falling by the roadside in Lincoln Co.

By E.G. WHITE-SWIFT
and ANNE SIDBURY
Of the Emerald

The official response to complaints about herbicide spraying programs has usually been that there are no other alternatives. But Lincoln County, Ore., and the Coos Trucking Company in Mapleton have developed alternatives to chemical spraying for roadside vegetation control.

Lane County may need the expertise the two groups have developed if the Land County Board of Commissioners stop the use of herbicides, an action which has been requested by four citizens groups in Lane County. A special

hearing on the herbicide issue has been set for Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Harris section of the county courthouse complex.

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners rejected the use of herbicides in that coastal county in a decision following a public hearing last fall. They were concerned about the safety of the chemicals widely used by both the county and other agencies. Lincoln County has numerous small creeks and frequent winds, which made the possibility of chemical spray drift into the water an environmental concern.

Lincoln County Commissioner Andy Zedwick said their program of manual cutting has worked reasonably well in the past year.

Zedwick referred to a project fellow commissioner Jack Postal is trying in Lincoln County. It involves spraying roadsides with salt water. Zedwick said they felt certain that salt water would eventually kill the unwanted species, but they're trying to determine how many applications are necessary.

Coos Trucking Company in Mapleton continues to use the conventional pre-herbicide method of manual cutting with large mowers. Coos Trucking currently does work for such agencies and firms as the Forest Service, Coos County, Weyerhaeuser, and U.S. Plywood.

Frank Snyder, a truck dispatcher for the firm, explains that when herbicide-targeted brush is

too thick, the sprays will not reach the designated area. Their trucks, with mowers which can cut plants up to eight inches high, are called in. The trucks can clear 15-20 feet on each side of the road, covering one mile of road in an eight hour day.

"The cost of the operation is about \$240 daily," Snyder said. "I can't see how it wouldn't be comparable to herbicide spraying in cost, and much safer. It could probably keep all the roads in Oregon clean, and put a lot more people to work."

Lane County's vegetation control program has come under attack because citizens claim they have experienced problems as a result of

the herbicides in use.

John Noell is a rural resident of Lane County who has serious objections to roadside spraying because his water supply is directly adjacent to the road. Noell expressed his concern to Al Driver, the director of transportation in Lane County.

Noting that several of his neighbors had gotten sick just after the spraying occurred and some of the livestock had died for no apparent reason, Noell asked Driver if he would honor "no spray" signs of private property. Noell said Driver implied he would do so, but two weeks later, the spraying crews ignored the signs altogether. Noell is presently involved in the

CATS lawsuit to stop herbicide use by the Forest Service, and appealing for an herbicide ban in Lane County.

Ann Tattersall is a resident of Eugene. Last spring she noticed a great deal of dead foliage on the bike path that runs from Alton Baker Park to Springfield. She made an official complaint to the Oregon State Department of Agriculture.

David Humphrey, one of only three investigators for the entire state, looked at the bike path at the end of May. He concluded that the chemicals 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D had been used. These chemicals state specifically "not to be used in recreational areas." Steve Puett, vegetation control officer, was responsible for this action, received a warning from the agriculture department and apologized for his oversight.

When Tom Harrison, program supervisor for the pesticide programs was contacted in Salem, he said this was "routine procedure." Warnings are normally issued for the first few offenses and if the problems persist, the agriculture department has the power to revoke an applicator's license to spray the chemicals. However, Harrison estimated only about four licenses have been revoked.

Another complaint recently came from a public works official of a small town in Lane County. He became concerned about an area of water supply under his jurisdiction, and the use of phenoxy herbicides around it. In a letter to the county, he asked that the use of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D be banned from the areas around the water supply, fearing the runoff of the sprays might cause contamination. His request was denied.

All of these complaints have gone through official channels, and each of the claimants has tried to effect change in a legal and reasonable way. All have failed, and are thus focusing their efforts on a lawsuit against Siuslaw National Forest and the public hearing in which they hope to persuade the county commissioners to restrict all use of the chemicals they feel are dangerous.

Science may not achieve images, says Mahoney

By SARAH McDONALD
Of the Emerald

"A science of science is long overdue," remarked Michael Mahoney in his lecture, "The Behavior of Scientists: The Psychology of Truth Spinning," last Tuesday.

Mahoney, an associate professor of psychology at Penn State, pointed out to a sizeable audience in 180 PLC that "what we know about anything is filtered through the scientists."

In our culture which "glorifies truth and knowledge" the scientist is portrayed as a storybook character, particularly in elementary textbooks. Studies indicate most students picture a scientist as "usually male, highly intelligent, creative, extremely rational, very objective, open-minded, cautious in speculation, and full of humility." This Spock-like image is grossly inaccurate, according to studies conducted by Mahoney.

Great scientists such as Newton and Einstein were not extremely intelligent, Mahoney noted. In fact, they were poor students. In discussing his feelings about the intelligence tests used in admitting science students to graduate school he revealed, "We are now using criteria that would eliminate half our faculty." Mahoney also criticized the system as "an epitome of inhumane treatment and irrelevant training. Most grads are taught what to think, not how."

The superior rationality skill of scientists is another myth, according to a study done by Mahoney. He asked a group of 15 unedu-

cated Protestant ministers and two groups of 15 scientists to form a correct hypothesis through experimentation on a given problem. The final data showed little difference in problem solving skills. In fact, it favored the ministers' group, which included the only two persons able to find the correct hypothesis.

Mahoney also declared Isaac Newton would often change his constants in experiments to make them work out right and Galileo went so far as to not even conduct some of his experiments.

This leads to Mahoney's fourth topic — open mindedness. One study was conducted to find out how scientists would react when data would solve the controversy about the moon's makeup. Scientists interviewed before the Apollo moon mission acted paranoid, emotionally and competitively. When the data was returned many refused to change their theories despite new facts proving them wrong. One scientist went so far as to say the four samples brought back were misrepresentative of the moon.

"Competition goes on in science rather than cooperation," Mahoney said. "This is reflected in the secrecy and paranoia." For this reason, caution in speculation and hypothesis isn't the rule among scientists. Competition is so great that until his experiment is in print with his name on it, the scientist doesn't want anyone to see it. But when it is published, "then you want everybody's mother to know about it," Mahoney said.

More groups opposing controversial sprays

By SARAH McDONALD
Of the Emerald

Many supporters of the use of herbicides have said the opposition is merely a vocal minority. But this week, many groups came forward to express displeasure with the airborne plant-killers.

Among groups that have recently studied the issue are the Lane Council of Governments (L-COG) Committee 208, Lane County Employees Organization, the county health officer, Lane County Medical Society, Central Lane League of Women Voters, Sierra Club, Oakridge Audubon Society, Eugene Natural History Society and the University Survival Center.

"Any kind of environmental chemical has to be looked at skeptically. I feel most action will come from a lot of citizen effort," commented environmental quality specialist Garrett Rosenthal of L-COG Committee 208. The committee has taken no definitive stand but is gathering information about herbicides and agencies who use them. "We have a concern in

the area, but not a definite policy," Rosenthal admitted.

Committee 208 is specifically concerned with waste water management. The committee is a unified effort to insure continuous protection of clean water. They deal with all types of water pollution but are in disagreement over whether herbicides should be included as non-source-point pollutants.

In a letter to the Lane County Commissioners, Thomas Morgan, president of the Lane County Employees Organization wrote, "The County's use of herbicides to control vegetation along county roads is not only a threat to the health and safety of our members (and your employees) but to the public in general. I have seen no medical evidence to support the use of toxic sprays in any form; to the contrary, the evidence supports the discontinuance of herbicide use due to the lethal effects it has had in laboratory studies."

County health officer David White, whose job entails the responsibility for the public's health, said, "I am not in favor of the use of anything

that endangers the health of the people of Lane County. I am against herbicides because their random use has not been proven to be safe."

The Lane County Medical Society has not taken a stand on the herbicide issue since meetings are not usually held in the summer. However, Dr. Bob Crist, president of the organization, said, "There is no question that it is a toxic substance. It has been proven beyond a doubt that it is harmful to animals and could also be harmful to humans."

In addition to county organizations, many citizens are concerned. Four citizens' groups are asking Lane County to discontinue use of herbicide sprays along county roads.

The groups, Citizens Against Toxic Sprays (CATS), Hoedads (a tree-planting cooperative), the Spencers Butte Improvement Association, and the Wilderness Society will testify at the county hearing Wednesday. CATS and Hoedads are also suing to stop the use of herbicides in the Siuslaw National Forest. That case continues next Wednesday and Thursday.

The Central Lane League of Women Voters

also plans to be involved in the trial. Action chairer Mary Sherriffs said, "We advocate using mechanical and manual means until it is established that herbicides are not harmful to wildlife and human beings. We are in favor of the halting of spraying until this evidence is in."

"Although we are not actively participating in the upcoming county hearing we support the CATS position," remarks Bruce Walker, director of the University's Survival Center. "And we are opposed to the use of herbicides before the trial."

The Sierra Club is also against the use of herbicides and according to Kurt Kutay, "We have found considerable scientific evidence that they are very toxic." The club's main concern is the uncertainties involved in terms of human exposure and health problems. "One real problem is person's exposure to herbicides without their knowledge. Agencies have no right to force herbicides on people," Kutay adds.

In her personal experience, JoAnne Ralston, a member and past president of the Oakridge Audubon Society, has witnessed the side ef-

Spend this summer in the cool, air conditioned EMU FOOD SERVICE

The Soda Bar—Grill

The soda bar features delicious milkshakes, ice cream cones, a variety of soft drinks, and of course, coffee and donuts. Open 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Deli

Be creative and make your favorite sandwich from a wide selection of meats and cheeses. Salads available too. Open 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Pizza—Burger Bar

Offering burgers, pizzas, hot dogs and fries. Open 11:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

The Cafeteria

Open for breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. The cafeteria line has always been the place to go featuring daily specials, with a choice of salads, sandwiches, and desserts. Open 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
SKYLIGHT VEGETARIAN SANDWICH SERVED HERE.



EMU BEER GARDEN
TOMMORROW
Free Popcorn & Live Entertainment
3-6 p.m. EMU DINING ROOM 12 oz. Glass 35¢ Pitcher \$1.50

Want to spend your noontimes outdoors?

The EMU Food Service Trailer would like to eat lunch with you at the Library turnout 9:30-11:30 and at Johnson Hall 1:30-3:00.

CATALYST RECORDS

NEW DIRECTIONS IN JAZZ

George Murbus
BRAZILIAN TAPESTRY

A brilliant pianist adding his own style to the jazz scene.

FLIP NUNEZ
MY OWN TIME AND SPACE

Composer, lyricist, pianist, singer, giving new dimensions to jazz.

HADLEY CALIMAN
PROCLAIMING

Beautiful ballads to hot cooking — his mighty tenor sax does it all.

Ahmad Jamal
LIVE AT THE BLUE NOTE

The master at work on the keyboard, with 4 exciting side-men — his greatest album yet.

Ron Jefferson
YOU'RE PASSING

After the Rain
Frank Strazzeri

FORECAST: SONNY RED
SONNY RED
WITH RED HOLLOWAY

GREAT RECORDINGS FROM JAPAN— THE JAZZ CENTER OF THE ORIENT

KIMIKO KASAI
THE LADY

TERUMASA HINO
SEXTET

JAZZ MESSENGERS 7th
Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers

HELEN SINGERS
TEDDY SWINGS

CARMEN MCRAE
LIVE AT THE BLUE NOTE

Catalyst Records,
a division of Springboard Int'l Records, Inc.

House of Records
258 E. 13th Eugene

