

Meteors expected: sprays temporarily banned

By E.G. WHITE-SWIFT
Of the Emerald

CELESTIAL FIREWORKS: After all the metallic garbage the planet Earth has spewn across our quiet and domestic galaxy, the cosmos are about to fight back. Between today and Saturday the planet Earth will be bombarded by an arsenal of meteors.

This shower, the Perseid meteor rampage, is famous for its sharp peak of activity where, over a short span of a few hours, it sometimes displays a large number of meteors. In recent years this peak period has provided as many as 50 meteors per minute.

This year the peak period occurs Wednesday from midnight to 2 a.m., states Steve Davidson, director of the Southwest Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (SWOMSI) planetarium in Eugene. The meteor fireworks are centered near the constellation of Cassiopeia, which appears like a large "W" in the northern sky. Davidson reports that the shower is visible to the naked eye, weather permitting, approximately 30 degrees above the horizon.

Meteorite buffs are encouraged to phone SWOMSI at 344-5248 for additional information. The planetarium staff is also answering questions about black

holes (a.k.a. space cannibals) with a film specially made for planetarium projectors. What is a black hole? Where do they originate? Do they imply a parallel universe? Will they abruptly consume our planet? Don't ask me, see the film.

PUMICE CLAIM: "The public has a right to know on what basis the Forest Service will decide whether the Rock Mesa claims are valid or



not," stated Fourth District Congressman Jim Weaver in a recent letter to Forest Service chief John McGuire.

Weaver has requested that Forest Service release its contracted study of mining claims in the Rock Mesa area of the Three Sisters Wilderness to the public. "It is important to release the report if taxpayers money will be used to purchase the claims," he wrote.

Pacific Northwest Regional Forester Ted Schlapfer recently informed Weaver the report had not been made public. The Forest Service contracted the study to help it determine if the mining claims of U.S. Pumice, a Los Angeles-based firm, are valid.

To be valid, a claim must be economical. A report issued early this month by the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) concluded that all ten U.S. Pumice claims were invalid because the pumice was not pro-

fitable to mine and the claims were improperly marked.

Weaver also told McGuire he was requesting the Chairman of the House Interior Committee to act promptly on the Forest Service request to withdraw 6,200 acres in the Three Sisters Wilderness and the Deschutes National Forest from mineral entry.

QUESTIONING GAS: After Lew Bailey, an Alvadore farmer, turned down insistent offers from the Mobil Oil Company to lease his property for oil exploration, he stated: "This area has always been farmland, and I'd like to see it stay that way."

Coupled with Mobil's major oil exploration project, the Eugene office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has re-released its second Environmental Analysis Report (EAR). The EAR describes a proposal to lease some 229,000 acres of BLM land in Lane and Linn counties for oil and gas exploration.

Development would occur in the Bear Mountain area north of Dorena Reservoir, throughout the Coburg vicinity, down the Mohawk River Valley, and up the McKenzie River Valley.

The Eugene chapter of the Sierra Club is unhappy with the EAR. According to a Sierra Club report, the EAR is "full of vague statements describing what 'may' happen or what impact 'could' occur. We need to ascertain what the specific direct and indirect impacts of the lease program will be."

The Sierra Club wants the BLM to write a more thorough Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that would involve more input from the public. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires that an EIS be written for any major federal project that would have a major impact on the environment. The Sierra Club claims that oil and gas leasing would alter Lane County on a large scale.

The BLM will be holding a briefing and discussion session with the Board of Lane County Commissioners Aug. 25. Comments on the EAR and proposed program will be received until Sept. 10 at the BLM district office at 1255 Pearl St., Eugene. Copies of the EAR are available for reading at the BLM office and at most local libraries.

2,4,5-T BAN IN LANE COUNTY: A temporary ban on the use of the

herbicide 2,4,5-T by county vegetation control crews was ordered by the Lane County Commissioners as a result of a special hearing last Wednesday.

The ban will be in effect until Sept. 8, when the commissioners will meet to determine the fate of the entire herbicide spraying program along 1,162 miles of county roads. The commissioners also requested that the county's transportation department investigate possible alternatives to a spraying program. The Sept. 8 meeting is at 1:30 p.m. in Harris Hall.

On another herbicide front, the hearings on a possible injunction to stop the Forest Service from herbicide spraying in Western Oregon will continue Aug. 11 at 9:30 a.m. in federal district court in Eugene. The injunction hearings are part of the legal process in a lawsuit brought by Citizens Against Toxic Sprays (CATS), Hoedads, and the Oregon Environmental Council against U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz and the Siuslaw National Forest.

AIRING GREENWAY LAUNDRY: Complaints, information, and official rebuttals were aired at a meeting last Thursday night discussing the latest, revised Willamette River Greenway proposal.

The proposal has been developed by the State Parks and Recreation branch of Oregon's Department of Transportation (DOT). The new revision was mandated when the Land Conservation and Development Commission rejected the first Greenway Plan last December.

The meeting was sponsored by the regional subcommittee of the Governor's Willamette River Greenway Committee in an effort to hear citizen's complaints and suggestions. Input from Thursday's meeting will be used to revise the final Greenway plan.

About 45 Lane County residents voiced their concern to the committee about trespassers who consider all river banks along the Willamette as "public property". They also expressed their fear that the Greenway plan would mean the loss of their land through official condemnation proceedings or "unofficial condemnation" through county zoning.

In addition to airing the Greenway's laundry and attempting to resolve conflicts, the committee distributed copies of the

plan which are now available at the Lane County Courthouse. Other Greenway publications distributed were an issues and answers booklet, a citizen response brochure, and a fact sheet on the laws and history of the Greenway plan.

All of the publications are available from the DOT, State Parks Branch, 525 State St., Salem, Ore., 97310.

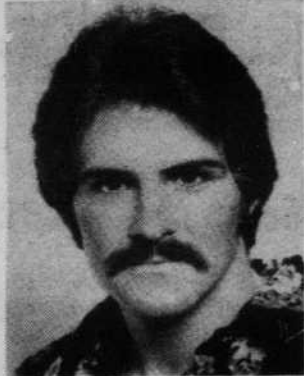
Area residents were informed that if they have further complaints or desire individual changes in the plan, they should attend a formal hearing to be held by the DOT on Aug. 26, at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. in the Harris Hall section of the county Courthouse complex.

EPDOP RECREATION: The Eugene Parks and Recreation Department Outdoor Program has space available on outdoor trips. Transportation is provided on all trips. Activities require advanced registration in City Hall II at 858 Pearl St. Phone 687-5307 for details.

- Aug. 13, 14, 15 MacFarland Lake Basin, Three Sister's Wilderness, 14-mile round trip backpack.
- Aug. 14, 15 Paddle Rafting Workshop on McKenzie River.
- Aug. 21, 22 Baker Beach on coast camp-out and barbecue.
- Aug. 28 Hiking through the Lava Beds near Belknap Crater in the McKenzie Pass area.
- Aug. 29 Meadow-tating, relaxing day hike through woods and meadows. Surprise location.

MORE HIKES & BIKES:

- Aug. 14, 15 Spoke Folk (342-4878) sponsor a two-day bike trip through Marcola, Crawfordsville, and Brownsville. Good intro ride.
- Aug. 14, 15 Indigo Lake, Willamette National Forest Sierra Club overnight hike (343-7178).
- Aug. 21, 22 Spoke Folk sponsor 100 miles on the High Cascade Lakes highway. Carpool to Bend.
- Aug. 29 Wilderness Society outing to Oregon Dunes near Florence. Joe Walacki (686-0135). Six-mile day hike.



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CCDC funding foulup resolved

A funding foulup which caused a panicky night last week for the University's Child Care and Development Center (CCDC) has been ironed out. The panic came Aug. 2 when CCDC Director Wanda Venturacci noticed what she thought was a missing sum of money from her program's grant account. The next day at noon was the time all EMU bookkeeping closed for 1975-76 and after that she would be unable to take any action on the matter.

The money in question was the remainder of CCDC's former Di-

rector Katharine Sacks's salary, which became excess funding when she resigned from her position in 1975. While all other CCDC expenses come out of its grant account, Sacks's salary was coming from the EMU's incidental fee account.

In a memorandum, Dec. 29, 1975, to CCDC's steering board chair Sally Mas, EMU Director Adell McMillan promised CCDC that "the balance of any salary savings in either account would be used at year's end to write off uncollectable accounts receivable."

School hosting health workshops

A series of workshops on practical methods in health is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at the Great Oaks School of Health in Creswell. Topics will include nutrition and mental health, massage, foot reflexology, wholis-

tic childbirth, preventative dentistry, herbology, acupuncture and SHIATSU. A full children's program will also be available. The cost of the entire weekend is \$10. Telephone 1-895-4967 for further information.

Venturacci says she interpreted this memo to mean Sacks's excess salary, totaling \$1,450, would transfer over to CCDC's grant account.

As it turned out, however, CCDC was able to pay all its uncollectable accounts receivable for last year from its account grant without Sacks's salary excess and still have money left over. Realizing this, McMillan did not give CCDC Sacks's salary excess from the EMU account since no money can transfer from an incidental fee account to a grant account which has a surplus. Instead, McMillan rerouted the excess money to the University's Drop-In Child Care Center to cover its deficits.

Venturacci says she now understands and accepts McMillan's action and attributes the funding controversy to "totally different interpretations" of the Dec. 29 memo by CCDC and McMillan.

Tuesday, August 10, 1976