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Input results in program proposal

An alternative minority program proposal emphasizing student input will be presented tonight at the last of three public hearings on the University's minority programs.

The hearing was scheduled by Frances Scott, chairer of the Planning Committee on Minority and Disadvantaged Students. The committee was appointed last spring by University Pres. William Boyd to review the Academic Opportunity Program (AOP) and make recommendations for a new one.

Barbara Koser, who has been involved in campus minority programs in the past, will present the proposal at the hearing. The plan was devised by Denny DeGross, former director of the Native-American Center on campus and has been enlarged over the summer by Koser with the help of community members, faculty and students.

"The initial idea developed by group consensus," says Koser. She says she has received endorsements for the program from University faculty, ASUO officials and other community members.

The University's minority prog-

rams have been the center of controversy for the past several years. The minority program operating this fall is an interim program developed last spring and offers limited enrollment classes to students with grade point averages that fall in the 1.7 to 2.0 range. The program is administered through the College of Liberal Arts, but past minority programs have used socio-economic characteristics as a criteria for eligibility and have been handled through the Office of Student Services.

The hearing is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in the EMU. Students with suggestions or criticisms may attend the hearing or contact committee members personally. Committee members include Frances Scott, committee chairer and director of the gerontology center; Executive Dean John Lallas, AOP Dean Willetta Wilson, professors Theresa Ripley, Joel McClure and Ed Coleman; School District 4-j representative George Russell, and students Roberta Nasu, Raul Mecha, Molly Brady and Gary Kim.

Persons having questions about the hearing may contact Scott at ext. 4207.



Photo by Anne Opatohsky

Church lends support to Democrats

"Let's put Oregon in the right column from the White House to the court house," said Frank Church, Democratic U.S. senator from Idaho Wednesday.

Addressing a crowd of Oregon and Lane

County candidates and supporters of the Democratic party at the Eugene Hotel, Church spoke out in support of incumbent 4th District Congressman Jim Weaver and Democrats in general.

Contamination problems seen

Editor's note: This is the second in a three-part series of articles dealing with the Hanford nuclear energy plant.

By MICHAEL THOMPSON
For the Emerald

In the early days of the Hanford operation, liquid atomic wastes were commonly poured into settling basins along the Columbia River. Here excess moisture evaporated, concentrating the wastes for easier handling.

Swallows found the contaminated mud ideal for nest construction. Humans became aware of this situation in 1956 when nests on the sides of occupied buildings turned out to be radioactive.

Settling ponds had another problem that worried some scientists. As the radioactive mud dried some of it turned to dust. Wind picked up the dust, together with its burden of radionuclides, and away it went. Where did it go?

In 1970 during an attempt to

measure the liquid level in a strontium storage tank, there was an accidental release of radioactive waste into an open 25-acre pond. Water samples from the pond showed a strontium concentration level exceeding AEC standards for radiation release.

A contaminated ditch was screened and noise guns used to scare off waterfowl. In spite of these efforts passing ducks and coots landed on the pond and became contaminated.

Hanford officials estimated that one pound of the radioactive waterfowl would give a person one per cent of the maximum permissible intake of strontium-90, but that in some birds the amount of radioactivity from other isotopes was considerably higher.

Where did the ducks go? Which hunter included them in his bag limit?

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maps of the Pacific flyway migration routes indicate that ducks

heading south down the Hanford stretch of the Columbia River turn west at the Oregon line, turning south again into the Willamette Valley or down the east side of the Cascades towards the Klamath Basin. Some will stop there for the winter. Others continue on into California and Mexico.

Sometimes plants instead of animals pick up radioactive wastes and introduce them into the biological web. Russian thistle or tumbleweed, for example, very prolific among the weeds on the Hanford Reservation, has been found growing in contaminated soil below leaking strontium-90 waste pipes, healthy and apparently unaffected by a high concentration of radioactive strontium in its tissues.

In 1974 Hanford researchers discovered that plutonium is picked up from the soil by plant roots with surprising efficiency.

Using barley, Dr. Raymond R. Wildung and Thomas R. Garland

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Bridge obtains funds

Thanks to local citizen concern and a bit of political muscle, Eugene will receive \$288,000 from the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) to build a bicycle and pedestrian bridge across the Willamette River in the Valley River area.

City officials received word of the funding Wednesday, which is available through the \$6 million Bikeway Demonstration Act.

The bridge, which will be approximately 175 feet long and cost more than \$360,000, will cross the river in the Polk Street area near Railroad Boulevard. City funds will cover 20 per cent of the cost of the project.

In September, the chances for federal funding of the project were considered dim. The bridge, one of ten bikeway proposals in the northwestern U.S. considered by the FHA's Seattle office, was rated only fifth in priority for the region.

However, on Oct. 1 the project received the #1 rating. This was due largely to the intervention of

Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., according to the Eugene Bicycle Committee. Packwood, author of the bikeway demonstration legislation, has been a strong supporter of the bridge since he toured Eugene's bikeways last summer.

Local citizens, led by the bicycle committee and Mayor Les Anderson, also were involved in lobbying efforts for the bridge.

Diane Bishop, Eugene's bicycle coordinator, said Wednesday she is pleased the bridge will receive federal funding. The bridge is necessary to link Eugene's developing bike path systems on the city's north and south sides, she said.

Bishop noted that without the bridge, cyclists have great difficulty crossing the Willamette River. Cyclists crossing the river in west Eugene are forced to use the hazardous Washington-Jefferson freeway, and the only pedestrian bridge is in the Autzen Stadium area.

Construction on the project will probably begin within a year, Bishop said.