

Car pool set for hearings on smoking

Persons wishing to attend a hearing on a package of eight bills introduced in the Legislature this session dealing with non-smoking regulations may participate in a car pool being organized by the Oregon Lung Association.

Anyone wishing to attend the hearing, which is set for Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in Hearing Room D at the State Capitol in Salem, may meet at the Oregon Lung Association office, 1262 Lawrence St., at 7 a.m. Tuesday.

The package includes bills which would prohibit smoking in any public indoor areas and which would require restaurant owners to designate non-smoking areas.

Judge halts Siuslaw forest herbicide use

By E.G. WHITE-SWIFT
Of the Emerald

The start of the 1977 herbicide spraying program on the Siuslaw National Forest has been blocked by a federal judge.

The temporary restraining order was issued Friday by U.S. District Judge Otto Skopil at the request of the Citizens Against Toxic Sprays (CATS). The restraining order expires March 7, or when Skopil issues final judgment on a suit filed last May calling for the halt of herbicide spraying. The suit was initiated by CATS, the Oregon Environmental Council and the Hoedads (a tree planting cooperative).

CATS is concerned that the 2,4,5-T herbicide the Forest Service plans to spray on the Siuslaw National Forest could cause health problems for residents in the sprayed areas. A recent study

conducted by a Harvard research team resulted in findings of dioxin, a herbicide residue, in samples of milk taken from nursing mothers living in the area.

The Forest Service claims herbicides are essential to the timber management of coastal forests. According to forest officials, a delay in the spraying start-up time will result in reduced vegetation kill.

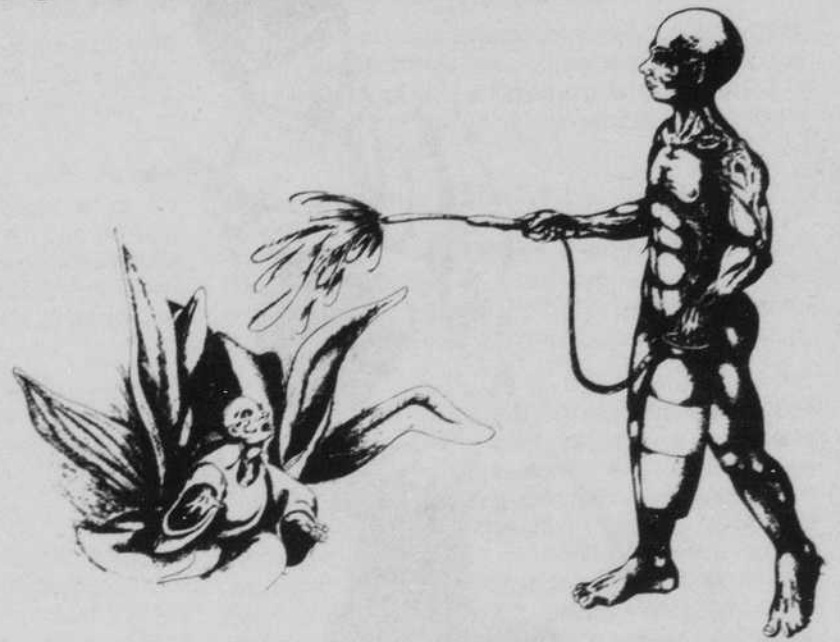
Also last week, the Eugene district office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has taken into consideration a petition to delay spraying signed by a group of Lorane area residents (unrelated to CATS).

The Lorane residents marched Thursday from the Eugene mall to the BLM office on Pearl Street. The BLM has announced it will begin spraying in the Lorane area after March 1, depending on weather conditions. The Lorane residents are concerned over the use of the herbicide Silvex, a chemical cousin of 2,4,5-T.

After Thursday's four-hour meeting between BLM officials and representatives of the Lorane group, BLM district manager Dwight Patton agreed to consider the petition and communicate with the Lorane citizens sometime this week.

The Lorane group had petitioned the BLM to:

- Delay the project for 30 days to allow time for the Lorane residents to present new evidence.



Drawing by Terry McBride

- Appoint a citizens advisory committee to investigate alternatives to the BLM spraying program.

- Establish a field monitoring and research program to prove conclusively that the herbicides used by the BLM will not create health problems for Lorane residents.

- Notify the Lorane residents when spraying will be done so they can monitor the program and, if necessary, protect themselves from herbicide drifting.

Gov. Bob Straub has also approved the aerial spraying of herbicide 2,4,5-T on state forest lands. Straub said Thursday that

despite results from the Harvard study there is no scientific evidence to justify halting the spray program.

Oregon State University researchers also have questioned the findings of the study. They feel the level of dioxin detected in the milk was so slight that it could have been registration of background interference on the highly sensitive equipment.

Another group has come out in support of the use of herbicides. A resolution supporting its use to control undesirable woody vegetation was passed by delegates of the Oregon Loggers Conference meeting this weekend in Eugene.

Smokers

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designate non-smoking areas.

One strike against the anti-smoking bills is that House Speaker Phil Lang, D-Portland, has given them a double committee referral, meaning that once they're sent out of the Social Services Committee they'll be sent to another committee.

Double referrals can be a kiss of death if the bills have trouble getting through two committees.

But a point in the legislation's favor is the two-to-one predominance of non-smoking legislators.

A recent headcount showed that the 60-member House has 42 non-smokers, eleven cigarette smokers, and three pipe or cigar smokers. (Most legislators refused to volunteer whether they smoked "anything else.")

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