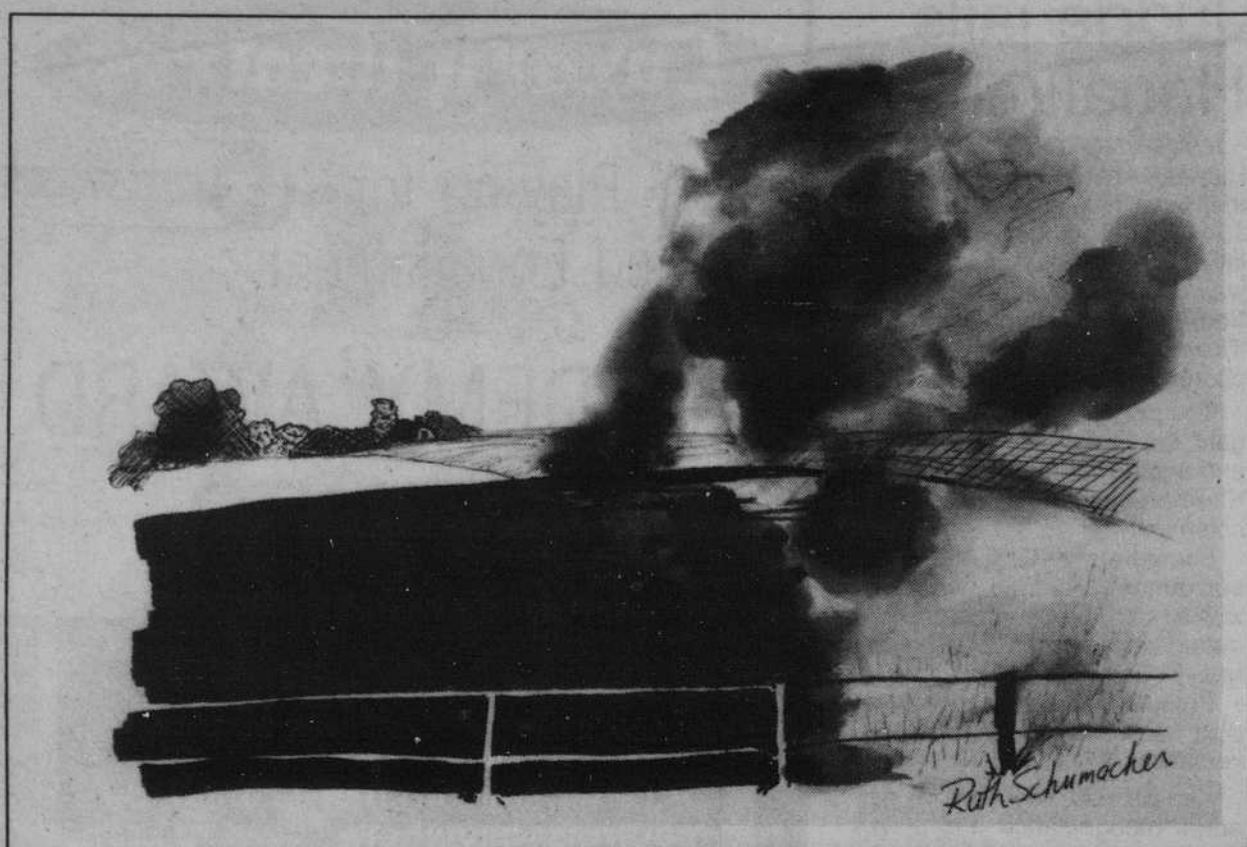




Drawing by Ruth Schumacher

EMU Food Service BEER GARDEN

TODAY
4-6 p.m.
EMU PATIO
Free popcorn
Glass 35¢ Pitcher \$1.50
Entertainment By
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JUNIOR CLASS PRESENTS APRIL FOOLS CAR RALLY

& All Campus Victory Party



FRI. APRIL 1st
Departure Time 7:30 from 15th & Moss
\$3.00 per car PRIZES
POST RALLY CELEBRATION AT
PHI KAPPA PSI 729 E. 11th Ave.
PARTY \$1.00 At Rally OR \$1.50 At The Door

Lobbyist charges seed grower's bill won't limit burning

By MARY BETH BOWEN
Of the Emerald

SALEM — The Oregon Seed Council's field burning bill calls for a smoke management program that wouldn't limit the amount of smoke in the air, a City of Eugene lobbyist charged Thursday.

Chris Thomas told the Senate Agriculture Committee that the smoke management program defined in SB 535 provides a "minimum" of smoke intrusion into cities, and for a "minimum number of (burning) days without prolonged impairment of air quality."

He added that, as he interprets the bill, seed growers could burn as many acres as they register for, because the Department of Environmental Quality would have no power to refuse burning permits.

But committee chairer Sen. John Powell, D-Halsey, said he was sure the bill is intended to allow the DEQ to continue controlling field burning on a "stop-go" basis, depending on weather and wind conditions.

Powell added that he thought the bill's intent is to allow the DEQ to decide how much smoke could be put into the air without jeopardizing air quality.

The interchange between Powell and Thomas highlighted one of the central questions in the field burning controversy — should the air pollution problem caused by field burning smoke be solved by smoke management or reduction of the pollution source?

Powell had earlier asked witness Sen. George Wingard, R-Eugene, whether he would support a smoke management program that allows burning when weather conditions are favorable, rather than sticking to a quota of allowable acres.

"No," said Wingard. "You'd just be controlling the smoke rather than solving the problem."

Wingard said after the hearing that an adequate air quality level guarantee is impossible in the Willamette Valley because weather and wind changes are unpredictable.

In direct opposition to Wingard was Bob Davis, a lobbyist for the Oregon Seed Trade Council, who told the Emerald that a smoke management program can guarantee an adequate air quality level.

"We've got to get off of the fetish of having quotas, of having X-number of acres to burn," said Davis. "What we've got to do is monitor the meteorological conditions more closely, get better communications equipment (for the DEQ and seed growers) so we'll control where the smoke goes."

Thomas charged that the growers' bill gives the Oregon Seed Council "absolute control" over the Oregon Agricultural Research Commission because of a provision that four of the seven members be seed growers.

"That commission will make official reports to the state," said Thomas. "Why have a totally industry dominated commission report on something that affects that industry?"

The field burning battle was in full gear Wednesday and Thursday, as witnesses testified on two diametrically opposed bills, one sponsored by the growers, the other by the City of Eugene.

The growers burn their grass seed fields after harvest to rid them of stubble and disease and claim that compliance with this year's acreage restrictions will force them out of business.

Eugene residents, on the other hand, claim that the smoke from field burning — which sometimes drifts down the valley — is a health hazard.

An unknown factor in the field burning battle is what action the Environmental Protection Agency will take if Oregon lifts all acreage restrictions on field burning.

The EPA approved Oregon's plan to comply with the federal Clean Air Act in 1972, but that approval included the complete ban on field burning passed by the 1971 Legislature.

Last January the EPA okayed the field burning phase-down passed by the 1975 Legislature, but urged the Legislature to "maintain or tighten" field burning restrictions.

House defeats move to slash tax relief

Salem — The House rejected a minority report Thursday that would have limited the homeowner and renter property tax relief program, affectionately called HARP by the legislators.

The minority report, presented in part by Rep. Tony Van Vliet, R-Corvallis, was suggested as an alternative to SB-2040. It would have limited the amount of general fund money available to taxpayers for the next biennium and restricted property tax relief to persons with an annual gross income of \$15,000 or less. Van Vliet said the limits would save the state some \$28 million over the biennium.

But Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Portland, who sits on the Revenue and School Finance Committee with Van Vliet, said the "number one" priority for the legislative session is property tax relief, and called the bill the session's "first tax relief program."

The bill comes to a vote before the House Tuesday and calls for an increase in homeowner and renter tax refunds and increases eligibility so persons earning up to \$20,000 annually can receive refunds.

Blumenauer said middle income families will receive some relief through the bill, and added that most of the committee members "realize the burden of the middle income families."

Lawmakers "should put our votes where the needs of our constituents are, and that is in property tax relief," Blumenauer said.

Friday, April 1, 1977