

# Environmental statements explained

By CAROLINE BEAVER  
of the Emerald

Members of the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) and University Survival Center instructed participants Saturday in the reading and action of environmental impact statements (EIS) required by federal law.

Since 1970, federal agencies have been publically accountable under the National Environmental

Policy Act (NEPA), for any "major" action with "significant" impact on the human environment. NEPA requires federal agencies to compile an EIS when those conditions exist.

The workshop noted what information an EIS must contain, what action can be taken if the statement fails to meet the information requirements and what steps to take to have an EIS written.

Bob Taylor, University Land, Air and Water Committee member said NEPA is a "sleeper" document. It has had much more impact than was expected. The courts often use it to enforce environmental decisions, he said.

"Debate on NEPA was slim when it was before Congress. A lot of congressmen who voted for NEPA in 1969 wouldn't admit it today," Taylor said.

NEPA created the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to develop EIS guidelines. The CEQ and the courts have determined that a draft EIS must be made public at least 90 days and a final EIS must be made public for 30 days before agency action can be taken.

Taylor noted five specific items an EIS must contain for validity: the environmental effects if the action is implemented, alternatives to the proposed action, the relationships between the short term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long term productivity and finally, the irreversible commitment of resources.

Once an EIS has been assessed for these things, it must be determined if the agency has done an adequate job. Taylor said key sore spots are the alternatives sections, which are usually "stumbling blocks for the agen-

cies" and often are just "window dressing for decisions the agency has already decided to carry out."

Impacts of both proposed agency action and alternatives must be given to Randy O'Toole of the Survival Center. This can usually be done, he said, in quantitative terms, so the public can easily compare them.

Jan Sokol, staff resource person for the University local board of OSPIRG, discussed steps to be taken if an EIS is inadequate. The first move, he said, is "making a good record. Show where it (EIS) is lacking in the draft process. Then they (the agency) have an opportunity to rectify the mistake."

Collecting data for an appeal against an EIS is necessary and can "sometimes prod an agency

into action," if the agency knows someone is collecting information about it, Sokol said.

Sokol mentioned several groups offering free or low cost legal and technical assistance. In Eugene, the Oregon Wilderness Coalition provides service to scientists and resource people. The Northwest Environmental Defense Center in Portland offers free legal and technical aid. Other good starting places are university law schools and environmental groups.

If you feel a federal agency is taking action that requires an EIS and one has not been written, Sokol said the best way to determine its feasibility is by looking into previous court cases using West's General Digest, found at the University Law School.

## World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

### Sadat proposes Mideast peace

JERUSALEM — In an act unthinkable less than two weeks ago, Egyptian Pres. Anwar Sadat stood in the parliament of Israel Sunday and declared: "We expect to live with you in a lasting and just peace."

The declaration broadcast around the globe was the closest any Arab leader has come to recognizing Israel as an independent nation in 30 years of intermittent wars.

Sadat's mission captured the imagination of millions, but infuriated Palestinian and other Arab militants to the point of calling for his assassination as a traitor.

### Conservatives lead elections

ATHENS, Greece - Premier Constantine Caramanlis' conservative New Democracy Party led in early returns Sunday and was expected to remain in power with an overall majority in general elections for the 300-member unicameral parliament.

Caramanlis called the elections one year early, saying a new government was needed to make decisions on crucial issues facing Greece next year.

### Jetliner overshoots runway

FUNCHAL, Madeira — At least 130 persons were killed or listed as missing after a Portuguese jetliner overshoot the runway, crashed and exploded while landing on this Atlantic holiday island, officials said Sunday.

The Boeing 727 of Portugal's national airline TAP skidded off the end of the Santa Cruz Airport runway and burst into flames during blustery weather Saturday night. It carried 156 passengers and eight crew members, TAP spokesmen said.

**Shang's Trivia:** It is illegal in Memphis, Tenn. for a woman to drive a car unless there's a man walking in front of her, waving a red flag. . .

**NOTHING PRICED OVER \$15**

**SHANG DRAPER'S**  
Discount Clothing



539 E. 13th

next to Charlie's Too

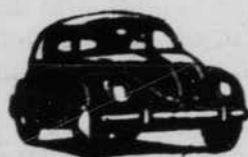
## THE BUG CLINIC, INC. INDEPENDENT FOREIGN AUTO REPAIR

• FRIENDLY

• WE WORK ON VOLVO, DATSUN, HONDA, TOYOTA AND VOLKSWAGEN AUTOS.

• HIGH QUALITY WORK

• FREE COURTESY RIDES TO THE U OF O AND IMMEDIATE AREA.



2090 W. 11th 344-1451

Ask about our free discount card.

# 3rd Annual Turkey Sale Nov. 21-23

**Budget Records**  
Assortment of  
Classical,  
Jazz, Pop, etc.

**T-Shirts**  
many styles,  
bloopers,  
seconds and  
discontinued

Look for  
specially priced  
"Turkeys"  
throughout the  
store

**New Stock Daily**  
in the  
Basement  
Sales Area

**Quality Gift Books**  
At least  
50% off

**Pepperidge Farm Goldfish Crackers**  
reg. 59¢-65¢  
now 2 for 99¢  
10 varieties

**UO BOOKSTORE**  
13th & Kincaid  
686-4331

Open:  
Mon-Fri 8:15-5:30  
Sat 10:00-2:00