

# French Consul tours campus, presents flag

University Pres. William Boyd received a French flag Monday from Pierre de Mirmont, consul general of France.

Mirmont and his wife visited the University campus Monday as part of an extended tour to various west coast universities.

"President Boyd personally requested a French flag, so I brought him one," Mirmont said.

Mirmont is responsible for arranging with the French cultural attache to present the film festival currently being shown at the University.

"I am here to represent my country," Mirmont said. He explained the University is important because of its direct participation in French foreign exchange programs as well as for the percentage of enrollments and interest shown in foreign languages.

The Mirmonts also had the opportunity to converse with the students from France enrolled at the University.

"They seem to be very happy here," he remarked. Mirmont said American students are pretty well read in the area of international issues. He explained that Europeans are more concerned with American politics because "the future of the world seems to rely on it."

Mirmont holds degrees in law and oriental languages. He acted as private advisor to the King of Cambodia from 1945-50, counselor at the French embassy in Pakistan from 1963-65 and deputy director of protocol with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1969-76.

After a day's stay at the University, the Mirmonts continued on to Oregon State University.

# Group supports Alaska federal wildland addage

By LAURY MASHER  
Of the Emerald

"Oregon Friends of Alaska," a new University group, has organized to support the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (H.R. 39).

Introduced to the House of Representatives a year ago by Congressman Morris Udall, D-Ariz., H.R. 39 proposes to add 115 million acres of federal wildlands in Alaska to National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges and National Wild and Scenic rivers.

Gail Gredler, a representative from the Eugene chapter of Oregon Friends of Alaska, says mining, oil and lumber industries

are in direct opposition to the bill.

"There is a lot of development interest in Alaska," according to Gredler. "They (the industries) want to see as little as possible put into conservation systems because that makes it a lot harder for them to get at it."

A second bill, proposed by Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, limits the additions to the conservation systems to 40 million acres. Young represents a state "whose government is inclined toward more economic development on the federal as well as state lands."

The Eugene chapter of Oregon Friends of Alaska is one of three in Oregon. The group stemmed from

previously existing chapters in Corvallis and Portland.

"We are trying to urge people to write to Senators Hatfield and Packwood," says Gredler. The bill has the support of 80 members in the House, but the Senate has not gotten beyond labeling it as S.B. 1500.

Gredler says Oregon Friends of Alaska would like people to write letters to senators, requesting the Senate Energy and National Resources Committee to take up the Alaska National Interest Lands issue.

The group further requests letters to Congressman Jim Weaver, who is a co-sponsor of H.R. 39, to urge his continued support.

## Seals

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However, Greenpeace claims that according to a Department of External Affairs memo, the total landed value of harp seal pelts in Canada for 1975 was about \$2.3 million. The group says that in the last year statistics are available, 1974, the total income of Newfoundland was \$1,831 million, of which sealing contributes about 1 percent of the province's income.

The Canadian government says there are lots of seals and sealing is necessary to control the expanding population.

However, Staffan Soederberg and Lannart Almvist of the Swedish Museum of Natural History, analyzing the statistics provided by the Canadian government to its embassies abroad prior to the 1977 hunt, found the number of seals is decreasing.

The statistics were self-contradictory, so they made the simplifying assumption that in case of disagreement, the larger figure was correct. They found the decrease was part of a pattern, from 3.3 million seals in the early 1950's to only about 1.2 million today. Their work was not supported by any sealing or anti-sealing group.

Greenpeace claims there is no hunting involved; members say the killing is a needless slaughter.

Moore, who has attended two hunts and will lead a protest on the ice this March, has described the hunt:

"When you approach, everything is very calm and serene. The seals congregate in huge herds. You may have 1,000 on the ice.

"Then the hunters begin to move through the herds with clubs or a 'Hakapik,' a long handled instrument with a metal spike at the end.

"When the hunters approach, the baby seals generally don't move... Then the hunters give him one solid one on head. Then two or three more until it cracks," Moore says.

Mercer says the baby seals are killed instantly and painlessly. "What we are dealing with is emotions," Mercer says. "The clubbing of a cute little whitecoat seal pup with the blood spattering over the white snow is a horrendous sight."

"It is the initial jerk, that sight that repels," he says. "The real issue is humaneness. The method used is more humane

than any trapping or sport hunting."

Greenpeace claims that many of the pups are skinned alive. The reason is that the pup will, when approached, bring in its head, causing several layers of fat to cover its forehead, making penetration more difficult.

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