

Greenpeace head denounces seal hunt

By KEITH NEAKRANS
Of the Emerald

Leader claims politicians afraid to act

Because politicians fear losing votes from the eastern provinces of Canada, some 180,000 baby Harp Seals will be killed this year, contended Patrick Moore, Greenpeace Foundation president, at a press conference in Eugene Wednesday.

"The politicians are backed into a corner," he said. "Most of them would like to see the seal slaughter go, but they have no votes to gain and many to lose if they do do away with it."

Moore said the problem arises because of the mythology of the hunt in the eastern provinces.

vinces.

"Brave men used to go out in small boats to hunt for the seals. Now giant ice-breaker ships plow through the ice, leaving virtually no physical risk for the hunters. Despite this fact it's still considered a macho thing because many people's grandfathers made a living off the hunt", said Moore, explaining the emotional factors that support the hunt.

"The economic adjustment Canada would have to make to end the slaughter is minimal" he said. "The government claims they make \$5.5 million from the

slaughter, but they won't give out figures on how much money they spend in sending delegates to the United States and Europe trying to justify the killing."

To further underscore the senselessness of the killing from an economic standpoint, Moore pointed out that only 200 men make more than \$1,000 from the hunt.

Moore and other Greenpeace members have gone to the ice floes near Newfoundland in efforts to hinder the slaughter over the past three years.

Methods the Greenpeace people have used to try to save seals included covering the pups with their bodies, scooping the seals up and running off with them. More effective plans Greenpeace has had for saving the seal pups have been thwarted by the Canadian government in past years, Moore said.

"The first year we went up we planned to spot the fur of the baby

seals with indelible green ink. This would have rendered the hide useless. The Canadian government got wind of our plan and passed a law against marking any animals without the consent of the government one week before the hunt began," he said.

The problem arises from the ability of the Canadian parliament to pass laws overnight, according to Moore.

Other overnight laws the Canadians have passed have outlawed include picking up wild animals, landing a helicopter within a half mile of the seals or flying lower than 2,000 feet over the seals.

"All of these laws have been passed to hinder the Greenpeace people, but have been hypocritically called animal preservation acts."

If the slaughter continues at its present rate, it has been predicted that the Harp Seal will be extinct in 10 to 40 years. But

Moore is optimistic the wholesale slaughter may be coming to an end.

"The political climate is a lot better this year than last year," he said.

Greenpeace has planned a major press conference in Ottawa just before going out on the ice around March 10. Moore plans to have influential people from the United States and Europe on hand to increase the public opposition of the killing.

Despite an improved climate for ending the hunt, it still will take a bold move by some members of the Canadian parliament to make it happen, Moore said.

Canadians in the eastern provinces still regard it to be masculine to buy a seal hunting license, Moore said, even if most of them get licenses just so they can wear the seal hunter badge.

"Some politicians will be hurt and bitter feelings will last in eastern Canada for many years if the hunt is ended," Moore said, adding, "the price seems small to save the species."

World at a glance

From Associated Press Reports

Sadat meets American rep

CAIRO, Egypt — Pres. Anwar Sadat huddled with American mediator Alfred Atherton Wednesday to lay the groundwork for summit talks in Washington which Egyptian sources said would be "vital" to keeping the peace process alive.

The meeting in Sadat's Nile-side villa in Giza "provided the opportunity for a broad review of a full range of issues" that the Egyptian leader will be discussing with Pres. Carter this weekend, an American spokesman said.

Another satellite piece found

EDMONTON, Alberta — Canadian officials said Wednesday another radioactive fragment from the Soviet spy satellite that burned up over northwest Canada last week has been found on frozen Great Slave Lake.

It was discovered in the same general area where scientists found the other radioactive fragment, along with a harmless piece of the satellite, on Tuesday, the officials said.

Porno and... Girl Scouts?

RALEIGH, N.C. — A loophole in a new anti-pornography law is allowing adult bookstore owners to carry on as usual by adding innocent books like "Trip to Toyland" to shelves that also carry racy reading such as "Bicentennial Bondage" and "Red Hot Wives."

"It's a loophole, there's no doubt about it," said Lt. K. J. Johnson, head of the Raleigh vice squad. "The stores are cutting the porn down to 49 percent, with the rest being Girl Scout books, magazines 15 years old, comic books — things like that."

Field burning increase nixed

In an unexpected ruling Tuesday, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) upheld the City of Eugene's position against the increased field burning acreage for 1977-78 enacted by the state legislature.

The EPA held the state to its original 50,000 acre burning limit, denying the state's revision request, which asked for the 180,000 acre limit authorized by the Legislature last July.

City Attorney Tim Sercombe says the EPA denied Oregon's request because of procedural deficiencies in the legislature's action and because the state had not justified its request by showing that the increase in burning would not harm the Eugene-Springfield area air quality.

The EPA will issue a notice of violation of the Clean Air Act for the increased burning last summer, Sercombe says, but the state will probably not be penalized.

The problem now rests in the lap of the state's Department of Environmental Quality, which can either meet the 50,000 acre limit in 1978 or submit a temporary, one-year plan with an outline for meeting the Clean Air Act requirements.

Such a plan will probably allow less than the 180,000-acre limit, according to Sercombe.

The Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority (LRAPA) greeted the EPA ruling as a "long-needed recognition that all sources contributing to air pollution in the Willamette Valley must be expected to roll back their fair share in cleaning up the valley's airshed."

LRAPA expressed concern that reduction in pollution from other sources in the Eugene-Springfield area not be used as a reason for increasing field burning.

Police seek \$700,000 in defamation suit

Fifteen Eugene police officers have filed two lawsuits in Lane County Circuit court seeking nearly \$700,000 in damages for statements made by two local Teamsters Union officials and a Teamsters Union newspaper.

The suits, filed late last month, name L.B. Day, secretary-treasurer of the Teamsters' Local 670 and Joe Edgar, president of the Joint Council of Teamsters

No. 37, as the defendants. The officers charge they were defamed by statements made by

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Day and Edgar to the local news media and in a letter written to Gov. Bob Straub.

According to Detective Randy White, a representative of the Eugene Police Patrolmen's Association, the law suit grew out of statements made by the defendants concerning an incident in which several Teamster members were arrested while picketing the Eugene offices of Chef Francisco, Inc., during a strike against that corporation last March.

Statements by Day to the Eugene Register-Guard and KASH radio accused the 15 officers making those arrests of misusing their authority and attacking the picketers without provocation, the law suit says.

Both Edgar and Day wrote letters to Straub, Pierce Brooks, Eugene police chief, and Mayor Gus Keller, making the same charges and asking that full-scale investigation be made of the incident, the suit says.

No charges were brought against the officers involved, the officers contend, and the statements by Day, Edgar and an account of the incident carried in a local teamster newspaper were defamatory and may have injured the officers' reputations.

"Police officers are all too often the brunt of inaccurate accusations and it's about time they stood up and made the people making those statements responsible for what they say," White explains.

Both of the suits, against Day and Edgar seek a total of \$675,000 in damages for defamation of character.

Thursday, February 2, 1978

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