

Field burning dangers revealed

City inhaling more pollution

By MADELEINE MATHEW
Of the Emerald

Field burning may be three times more hazardous to the health of Eugene residents than was originally suspected, the city council learned Wednesday during their regular meeting.

Terry Smith, an environmental analyst for Eugene's public works planning department, said his studies show that the pollution caused by field burning may have been seriously underestimated in the past because standard measuring methods don't record all of the particulate matter caused by field burning.

Smith, who has studied information about field burning and the methods used to measure its effect on air quality, added that field burning may have a worse impact on the city than slash burning.

He also said that certain chemicals found in field burning smoke are carcinogens which could prove to be a health hazard.

"I'm not saying that it causes cancer," Smith explained, "but we need more research to determine the actual concentration of this matter in field burning smoke."

Smith told the council that the way burning is scheduled, the reduction of acreage burned and modifications in burning practices could all be used to help reduce the level of smoke and pollutants in the air during the burning season.

He cited some practical and economically feasi-

ble burning methods which are currently used in California and could possibly reduce field burning emissions 50 percent. He suggested burning on alternate years, prohibiting burning the straw if it has a moisture content of over 12 percent, and using the "backfiring" technique. Backfiring is a practice of burning in the wind which results in complete combustion and a lesser smoke density.

The 1975 legislature approved burning limits of 95,000 acres for 1977 and 50,000 for this year. But the 1977 legislature revised those limits to 195,000 acres for 1977 and 180,000 for this summer.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ruled last month that the state had violated national clean air standards by allowing burning in excess of 95,000 acres last year. The State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is now preparing a temporary control strategy to demonstrate to the EPA that measures are being taken to control air pollution.

Last month the DEQ announced that it will conduct a \$400,000 air quality monitoring program this summer to determine the impact of field burning in the Willamette Valley.

The council agreed to advocate the use of new burning techniques and urge that adequate monitoring, commencing immediately, be included in any DEQ/EPA agreement of burning standards.

Mayor Gus Keller said Eugene will continue to press for a strict limit on the acreage that can be burned this summer.

Music, food, films highlight festivities of ethnic symposium

Next week's Second Annual Multi-Cultural Historical Symposium Week, Feb. 20-24, will feature music, dance, lectures, food, films and other cultural events with an emphasis on the histories and cultures of Asian Americans, Afro-Americans and Native Americans.

The University Asian American Student Union (AASU), Black Student Union (BSU) and Native American Student Union (NASU) are jointly sponsoring the week to celebrate each group's cultural background.

Festivities will culminate in a multi-cultural dinner/show Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom. A dinner of barbecued chicken, fried won ton, greens, fried bread and corn on the cob will precede live entertainment by sponsoring union members.

Singing, traditional Native American dancing, poetry, Japanese dancing and martial arts are scheduled at the event. Tickets for the dinner/show are \$2.50 and may be purchased at the EMU Main Desk. A disco will follow the dinner in the EMU, Room 167. Admission is \$1.

Kicking off the week will be Nobuko Joanne Miyamoto and Bennie Yee of "Warriors of the Rainbow," an Asian American movement band of national fame. The two will give a concert of original material Monday at 8 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom. Tickets are \$3 and may be purchased at the EMU Main Desk.

Roger Brower, nationally known Sioux artist, will speak Wednesday at 12 p.m. in the EMU Forum Room. There is no admission charge.

The award-winning films, "At the Time of Whaling," and "The People are Dancing Again," will be shown Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Longhouse, 1606 Columbia, free of charge.

"At the Time of Whaling" tells about whaling from the Eskimos' point of view and explains why it is an important part of their culture. The second movie explores the history of the Siletz Indian tribe, the Siletz experience with tribal status termination and their struggle for restoration.

AASU members will combine poetry, history and commentary with judo, kung fu and karate in a martial arts demonstration Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU, Room 167. Admission is \$1 and tickets are available in the EMU Main Desk.

Handicapped education featured at conference

By RICHARD SEVEN
Of the Emerald

A three-day series of workshops and panels for persons working with handicapped children and adults, begins today at the University.

The 13th annual Oregon Conference is sponsored by the University Center of Human Development and the College of Education. Approximately 500 persons are expected to register for the Friday and Saturday sessions.

Phillip Burke, branch chief of the Western region and special projects from the U.S. Bureau of Education for Handicapped, will give the keynote address at the first general session, Friday at 8:45 a.m. in the EMU. He will speak on "Can a Free, Appropriate, Public Education Be Provided for Handicapped Children of the Nation?"

Two pre-conference programs will be offered, one on epilepsy and the other on hyperactivity. James McDonald, University professor of special education, and

Emanuel Lotito of Eugene School District 4-J, will present the hyperactivity program.

Participants may also attend seven different workshops Friday and Saturday.

Nonda Stone, coordinator of the conference, says she expects many "regular" education people at the conference.

"Because of the new public law encouraging mainstreaming of handicapped children into regular classes," Stone says, "the new emphasis seems to be integrating the handicapped students rather than segregating them."

The Telephone Pioneers of America will display miniature models of unique communication devices designed specifically for handicapped persons at 12:30 p.m. in 101 EMU. Included in the display will be a "talking teddy bear."

Registration for the Friday and Saturday sessions will be at 8 a.m., Room 108 EMU. Conference cost is \$12.50, but full-time students will be charged only \$3.50.

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