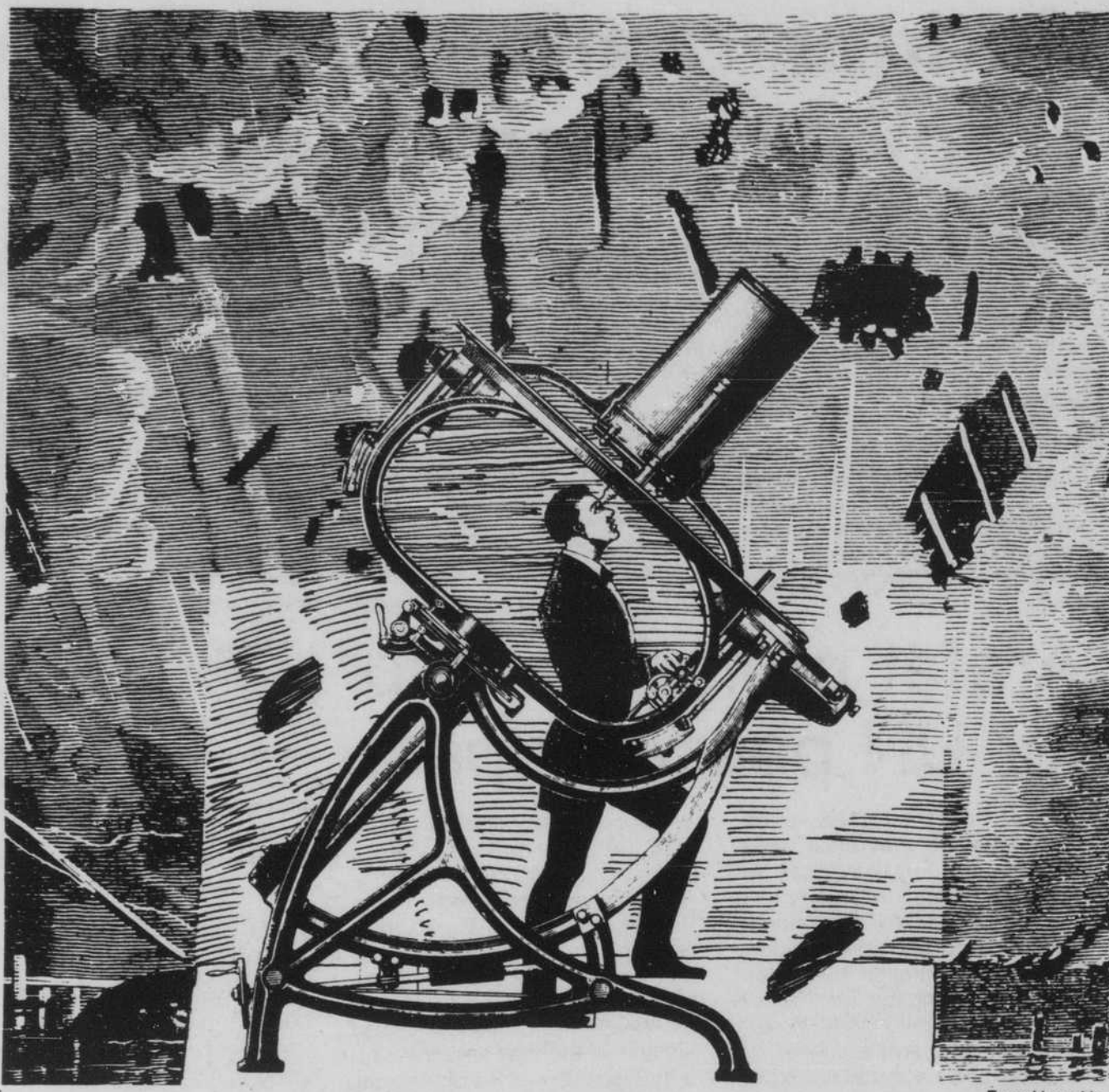




Emerald graphic

Officials discount waves, side-effects

EUGENE, (AP) — Federal officials have taken a ho-hum attitude toward reports that Eugene residents are being bombarded by mysterious, high-powered radio waves.

"I sort of hate to puncture the balloon of some exotic secret radio installation going in there and causing problems, but we find no evidence of it," Richard Smith of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) said Tuesday in a telephone interview.

And an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) spokesman says there is no indication they are harmful. Other EPA officials said, however, that the reports will be investigated.

"It's not mysterious at all," Smith said. "These are data-link operations by the U.S. Navy." Smith, assistant director of the FCC's enforcement division, said the signals are coming from a transmitter at Dixon, Calif.

"These are authorized, legitimate Navy operations. There is nothing unusual about that." He said the signals would sound unusual to a person not familiar with data transmissions.

Cmdr. Robert Bennett at the Treasure Island base in San Francisco said he doesn't think the signal is like anything the Navy has at either Dixon or the Alameda Naval Air Station.

Richard Tell, of the EPA's field office in Las Vegas, said reported health problems do not resemble those normally caused by radio transmissions.

"The reported symptomology is not related in any obvious fashion to the effects at the frequencies that the signal has been observed," he said.

"It seems, perhaps, premature to jump on an idea that the observed effect, which apparently is very real to the individuals who have observed it, is related to a radio frequency signal," Tell said.

Says professor Unidentified waves cause ear ringing, headaches, stuffiness

By PAUL WALDSCHMIDT
Of the Emerald

Marshall Van Ert, one of the original investigators into the potentially health threatening radio signal that has been detected in Eugene and other parts of the state, knows what it is like to live with the physical side effects of the signal.

For the last four months he has experienced the biological effects of the signal in his own home.

Van Ert, an industrial hygienist at the University, was first introduced to the effects of the signal last October when a Santa Clara resident, Walter Deposki, asked Van Ert to investigate the cause of a noise-vibration problem at Deposki's home.

"In the house I perceived a high-pitched, non-audible sensation that set up a ringing in my ears. It felt like a pressure around my head. I observed the chimes of the grandfather clock on the mantle and the rabbit-ear TV antenna vibrating," Van Ert said.

He said after he left the house, "I couldn't even think straight," and he experienced a sense of disorientation.

The signal was later detected and recorded at the Deposki house and five other locations in Eugene, including Van Ert's own apartment.

Van Ert said after talking to about 25 other Eugene residents who reported experiencing physical reactions to low-level noise or vibrations, he realized he had been experiencing a similar phenomenon himself, even before he began the investigation.

The interviewed residents said the complaints included headaches, insomnia and ear and throat problems.

Van Ert reported the phenomenon to Dr. David White, Lane County health officer, and White visited Van Ert's apartment March 20. At the apartment, White said he "perceived a high-pitched barely audible sound accompanied by a stuffiness in both ears."

White said he observed a reddening of Van Ert's skin during the visit. He said the sound and the stuffiness in his ears disappeared when he left the residence. White

said he left and re-entered the apartment three times and that each time the phenomenon was not present outside the residence. At one point Van Ert cut all electrical power to the apartment and the sound continued.

The phenomenon was also observed last Thursday at Van Ert's apartment by Kay Prince, a health physicist from the State Health Department's radiation control center, and a representative of the Oregon Air National Guard.

"Prince monitored the signal for two hours and observed the reddening of the skin. When the signal stopped, the redness disappeared," Van Ert said.

He said the biological effects of the signal appear to be cumulative and increase as the signal increases. Van Ert said he has noticed the skin reddening effect more in the last couple of months.

"The signal's strength will begin to increase in intensity in the evening from about six to seven and continue through the night and into the morning until about eight or nine. On at least five occasions, I have had to leave my apartment," he said.

Van Ert said the redness increases when he faces a window. He said this suggests the signal originates from outside the house.

At the Deposki residence, Van Ert said the signal was "a number of times greater inside the house than out." He theorized that the house could be acting like a radioamplifier.

Deposki said vibrations are strongest at night also, but that they are not present every evening. He said some visitors to his house notice the sensation, while others are not aware of it even when it is pointed out to them.

He said he has almost constant headaches and ear problems and that the phenomenon has made him extremely nervous.

In addition to the six Eugene locations, the signal, which has been described as a 4.75 megahertz pulse occurring 1,100 times per second, has been detected in Corvallis, Portland, Bend and in the air at an altitude of 3,000 feet above Eugene.

Federal Communication Commission officials are now saying the powerful signal is being broadcast from a U.S. Navy air station in Alameda, Calif. The FCC says the Navy signal precisely matches the signal that has been monitored in Eugene.

Van Ert said he has received a report from a person who has monitored the signal and says the signal carries intelligible components, like a commercial radio or video transmission.

OPEN NIGHTS

TIL

8:00 PM

WED & THURS
(MAR. 29-30)

UO
BOOKSTORE

EARN MORE ON SAVINGS . . . NEW ACCOUNTS — NEW RATES

1. SPLIT RATE SHARES!

Earn up to 7% on a portion of shares in this new account. . .

ACCOUNT BALANCE	RATE
\$5.00 to \$10,000	6½%
\$10,005 to \$20,000	6¾%
\$20,005 and UP	7%

2. SHARE CERTIFICATES (\$1000 minimum)** 7¼% Rate for two year deposit!

lane

SERVING U of O & STATE EMPLOYEES
IN LANE COUNTY.
503 E. 11th

**Federal regulations require substantial penalty for early withdrawal and prohibit payment of dividend in excess of available earnings.



From your
credit union
687-2347

**1¢ BANANA
SPLIT
SALE**

Buy 1 at the regular price
and get the second for only 1 cent

**Dairy
Queen**

**TOMORROW
only**

*13th & Hillyard
Dairy Queen