

Radio waves linked to Navy

A Navy communications transmitter near Dixon, Calif., is causing Eugene's mysterious radio signal, Richard Tell, a physicist who headed a three-day investigation for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), said Saturday.

The transmitter was cited by the Federal Communication Commission two weeks ago as the source of the signal, but further tests by Tell and other EPA officials were requested by state and local officials. From the data gathered by the tests the signal is not considered a threat to public safety, Tell said.

The signal was first discovered last October by Marshall Van Ert, an industrial hygienist with the University's Health Physics office. Van Ert and Bill Bise, a Portland radio engineer, monitored the signal in six locations around the Eugene area, including an area near the University at Franklin Boulevard and

Agate Street.

The signal, which has been described as a pulsating 4.75 megahertz wave with a power nearly 10 times greater than the most powerful AM radio station in the area, was first reported by Santa Clara resident Walter Deposki. Deposki and nearly 25 other Eugene residents who were interviewed by Van Ert showed symptoms similar to microwave radiation exposure, which leads to an investigation by state health authorities and finally the EPA.

The signal, however, is not harmful to the public, Tell said.

"As far as I can tell there was a unique combination of events that went together to make an interesting nature to the Dixon signal," Tell said. "The signal is used for data transmission, but it's a very unique type of signal."

Oregon Ducks' mascot debate quack-quacking

Look out, Donald Duck! Your days as the University's mascot may be numbered. Mallard Drake, a cartoon creation by Emerald editorial cartoonist Steve Sandstrom, is challenging your position as the University's unofficial mascot.

Mallard, (Pronounce that Mal-lard) is being assisted in the challenge by former Emerald's graphics editor Sanstrom and Emerald advertising manager Carl Bryant.

Bryant explains that the University is still known officially



Mallard Drake

as the "Webfoots" but that in 1947 Donald was adopted as the duck to represent the "webfoots." Since then the University has been increasingly referred to as the "ducks."

Mallard, who first appeared on the Emerald's editorial page in the "Duck Soup" cartoon three years ago, is also being aided by Mike Wilskey, spokesperson for the "Committee to Appoint Mallard Drake as University Duck" (CAMDYD).

Wilskey emphasizes, "We want to make it clear that we are not trying to change THE duck, just which duck."

Sandstrom says that Mallard has several advantages over Donald as a representative of today's University.

"Donald is everybody's duck, sort of a 'California multinational-type' character. Mallard Drake grew up right here at the University," Sandstrom points out.

Students will have an opportunity to vote on the duck of their choice this May. The question of whether or not to replace Donald with Mallard will appear on the ASUO primary election ballot.

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