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photo by Dennis Hickok

Steep thrills

A skateboard park isn't in the University's immediate building plans, so a group of residents at the Bean dormitory complex have devised their own ramp enabling them to gain the needed velocity to perform their "board" stunts. Dangerous you say? Well they could be in the cafeteria eating.

Lawsuit to test nuke credibility

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

A lawsuit that might put the entire nuclear power industry on trial is scheduled to begin early this summer, according to Howard Kohn, an associate editor of Rolling Stone magazine.

The lawsuit was filed in an Oklahoma City, Okla. federal court by the father and children of Karen Silkwood, a lab analyst with the Kerr-McGee company plutonium plant in that city who was killed in a suspicious car accident four years ago.

"The Silkwood trial in general tests the nuclear power industry's credibility," Kohn says. "The question of the industry's safety has become a black-and-white issue because Kerr-McGee takes a tough line on the safety allegations, and if it turns out that they are lying, then the whole industry will look bad."

The question of Kerr-McGee's safety precautions in handling plutonium in the Oklahoma City plant came to the attention of Kohn in November 1974, after Silkwood's mysterious death.

Silkwood, a 26-year-old lab analyst, became disillusioned with Kerr-McGee's safety precautions and was gathering information to present to a New York Times reporter on the mishandling of the plutonium when she was first poisoned with plutonium and then killed in a car accident.

According to Kohn's Rolling Stone account, Silkwood's attorneys have also discovered new evidence to suggest that Kerr-McGee had Silkwood under surveillance several weeks before her death.

The attorneys, however, are limited to proving negligence on the part of Kerr-McGee for workers' safety, and that the company knew more about Silkwood's death than they admit, Kohn says.

The evidence Silkwood was taking to the New York Times reporter dis-

appeared from her wrecked car shortly after her death and has yet to turn up, Kohn says.

Most of the documents Silkwood was gathering involved evidence that the welding on the plutonium fuel rods wasn't safe, Kohn says.

"There is also some speculation that she unwittingly picked up company files that documented some of the safety hazards of the employees working around the plutonium and evidence that plutonium was missing from the plant," Kohn says.

While the trial might be an "extremely important" case for the anti-nuclear cause, its outcome probably won't hurt the Trojan Nuclear Power plant near Rainer, Oregon, says Nina Bell of the Trojan Decommissioning Alliance.

"We do think it is an extremely important case because it is indicative of the way plutonium has been handled," Bell says. "But we don't think it will hurt Trojan."

"This is just part of the picture that has been coming clear that workers are not being told about the dangers of working with plutonium," she says. "This also kind of goes hand in hand with the recent accident at Trojan."

But, says Lloyd Marbet of the Coalition for Safe Power, the trial's outcome could have some indirect effect on Trojan.

"It's kind of far removed from Trojan and I don't think it will directly affect Trojan," Marbet says. "But what has been taking place in the Kerr-McGee plant is also exhibited elsewhere, so indirectly it may affect Trojan in the long run."

Even if the trial's outcome isn't favorable for the anti-nuclear movements, the implications of the evidence to be presented may be enough to convince some people of nuclear power's dangers, Kohn says.

"The implication that someone could poison Karen Silkwood with plutonium from the plant is that the Kerr-McGee operation is so sloppy that it isn't safe," he says.

Thirty-four candidates file for ASUO spots

Thirty-four candidates and three constitutional amendments will appear on the ASUO spring election ballot next week.

Six presidential candidates have filed. They are: Jim Dowhower, Elizabeth Bose, Doug Benson, Mike Lockwood, Ramon Herrera and Jeff Warren.

Benson, a senior in Computer Science CSPA, is currently Incidental Fee Committee chairer. Warren, a geography-urban studies junior, is also an IFC member.

Herrera is a junior in CSPA-journalism and is director of MECha, a campus Chicano student union. Lockwood presently holds SUAB position 4 in business and is a junior in economics.

Bose, a senior in political science-journalism and Dowhower, a junior in architecture, currently do not hold ASUO positions.

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Six people have also filed for EMU board slots. They are: Barb Selby, a general science teacher; Tom Christ, an economics junior; Bill Nelson, a biology sophomore; Eric Frazier, a psychology senior; Amy Tobias, a history-political science sophomore and Corey Henkelman, a geography junior.

Most Student University Affairs Board (SUAB) positions will be contested. Of the 11 positions open, only three are uncontested.

SUAB No. 1, law, has two candidates, Harold McLean and Micheal Leeds, both second year law students. Position No. 2, journalism and speech, has three candidates, AnaMaria Bell, journalism junior, Mark Kendall, speech sophomore and Dale Buckley, speech master's candidate.

Openings No. 5 and No. 6 are for education and CSPA. Running for No. 5 is Jess Barton, a CSPA sophomore and running for No. 6 are Mitzi Primak and Deborah Brown, education seniors.

Uncontested for No. 10 is Gordon Malon, a junior in philosophy. Also uncontested are E. Ray Cook, a music sophomore for No. 15 and Carrie Winegar, an English sophomore, uncontested in position No. 16.

Salena Baker, a junior in fine arts and Carey Moffet, an art history freshman will vie for No. 11, which includes architecture and art.

Position No. 12, psychology, sociology and anthropology, has three candidates: Kevin Pope, Owens Hurriel and Mike Had-dock, all psychology sophomores.

Four people are running for No. 14, history

and political science. They are: James Pasero, a history junior, Natalie Pool, a political science sophomore, Kent Laverty, a political science freshman and Donald Heady, a history and political science junior.

Two undeclared freshmen are running for the No. 18 spot, Donald Miller and Robert Cartwright.

Voters will decide on three constitutional amendments as well as on the candidates. One amendment asks that the University duck be changed from Donald to Mallard Drake. Another would lower the number of necessary signatures to recall an ASUO official from 10 to 5 percent of the student body.

The last amendment concerns the reorganization of SUAB and its constituencies.