

The Northwest's public utilities, including the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB), run the risk of becoming "energy farms for the sun-belt states" if people continue to support business interests rather than socially responsible leaders, according to John Bartels.

Bartels, an EWEB commissioner candidate for Wards 4 and 5, spoke to a dozen University students Tuesday afternoon in the EMU about campaign issues, EWEB policies and EWEB's potential to increase and maintain control of its hydroelectric power.

Bartels is running against Thomas Teutsch for one of the five non-partisan, non-salaried board positions in the May 23 primary election. Teutsch, a partner in a Eugene financial planning firm, was appointed to the board in January after the resignation of Taylor Ramsey.

Bartels is a free-lance journalist, a researcher specializing in energy issues and he is the current coordinator of the Power Research Group, a Eugene based non-profit energy research organization.

"If we become an energy farm for the sun-belt, we are drawing the blueprint for bankruptcy in the Pacific Northwest," Bartels claimed.

The Northwest's economical backbone is precarious, therefore sharing the region's hydroelectric power doesn't make much sense, he asserted.

"It's as though the Columbia River was made to serve the Southwest," he said.

Some people want the capacity of the Pacific Inter-tie doubled, he said, but the public doesn't realize the consequences of such an action. If the line's capacity

EWEB candidate calls present board materialistic, macho

By SUSAN SCHLANGEN
Of the Emerald



Photo by Dennis Hickok

was doubled, Northwest utilities would store water during the spring to sell hydroelectric generated power to the Southwest during the summer, he said.

However, this would result in insufficient power for the Northwest, he added. The region would have to rely on nuclear power to make up the difference, he explained.

Nuclear power is an issue in this campaign, but Bartels said it's not a matter of whether the voters are for or against it.

"Public confidence in atomic power programs is at a low ebb," he said. "People want more information about it and they don't want to be locked into it."

If Bartels is elected, he said he will urge board commissioners not to become involved with nuclear power projects.

Another issue voters will have to contend with at the polls is whether they want "a consumer-owned utility to be run by business interests."

The board conducts its business as usual and does not have a socially responsible conscience, he said.

Bartels described the current board as a "paternalistic, militaristic and macho outfit." He attributed these qualities to post World War II management philosophies and said that the public is just beginning to assert its right to know about the utility and utility policies.

"The people of Eugene own the utility and I think it's time for someone to remind the board," Bartels said. He added that he believes he will win the election because the people in Eugene recognize his ability.

During a question-and-answer period Bartels said dam building along the Columbia River has some serious environmental impacts, but the damage can be rectified.

Craig: retain preference clause

By SUSAN SCHLANGEN
Of the Emerald

Public utilities must protect the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) preference clause because it keeps the electricity rates down, Jack Craig told University students Tuesday in an ASUO-sponsored Eugene Water and

Electric Board (EWEB) candidates forum.

"We have to fight to retain that public preference power," he said.

Craig, who is running for the EWEB commissioner at-large position, was one of two candidates who participated in the forum. Craig's opponent, Cal Schmidt, was invited to the forum,

but he did not attend. EWEB candidate John Bartels, who is running for the Ward 4 and 5 position on the board attended the forum; however, his opponent Thomas Teutsch did not.

Craig, a former Oregon legislator, county administrator and current member of the Lane Transit District, said that EWEB

needs to make sure it maintains access to BPA power in order to prevent private utilities and energy intensive industries from infringing on the public's energy.

He also attacked nuclear power plants for being the most expensive, dangerous and unrealistic ways to generate power in the Northwest.

"It's folly to be thinking of future nuclear plants as far as public utilities," he said. "There's scientific evidence that small subatomic particles do affect humans who work in the plants."

Craig mentioned the baseline rate as a way to cut down energy consumption for those who conserve energy. "California has legislated the baseline rate and consumption has gone down," he said.

He endorsed the application of other energy sources such as solar energy to keep the rates down. Craig favors the development of "heat holding efficient hot water systems through better insulation" and the reduction of energy consumption during peak hours. He suggested that more industries should be open at night to foster energy conservation.

Venus study provide U.S. with hints on earth's weather machine

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is about to conduct an ambitious detailed study of another planet's atmosphere with unmanned spacecraft that may provide some clues about the earth's complex weather machine.

U.S. space officials said Tuesday that the first of two Pioneer Venus spacecraft is set for launch next week on a slow, looping swing toward earth's cloud-encapsulated neighbor.

The two spacecraft, one to orbit the planet for long-term studies and the other to break apart into five probes to penetrate the atmosphere, are the first designed primarily to study the atmosphere of another planet.

Scientists say the atmosphere of Venus appears to represent a relatively simple weather mechanism when compared with the Earth's.

Studies of the interaction of clouds, temperatures, pressures

and other factors on Venus may help man better understand his planet's more complex atmosphere, they said at a National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientific briefing.

Venus, the second planet from the Sun, is almost identical to Earth in size and mass, but has a much denser atmosphere composed mostly of carbon dioxide. Atmospheric pressure at the planet's surface is 100 times that of Earth and temperatures are about 900 degrees Fahrenheit, hotter than the melting point of lead.

The United States has flown three Mariner spacecraft by the planet, but none landed or orbited.

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