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City offers field burning concession

By PAUL WALDSCHMIDT
Of the Emerald

The City of Eugene may be willing to let the grass seed industry burn as many as 150,000 acres of grass straw next summer if the industry agrees to a set of restrictions proposed by the city.

City Attorney Stan Long told the council Wednesday the city's field burning staff has failed to reach a compromise on burning restrictions with the industry, but is prepared to present its recommendations to the state Environmental Quality Commission (EQC).

Long said the seed industry has not had enough time to evaluate or agree to the compromises the two groups discussed during a series of meetings.

The council approved a list of field burning restrictions which Long will present to the state Environmental Quality Commission meeting Friday.

These requests included:

- That there be improvements in the monitoring program to be put in place during this burning season.
- That all annuals and bent grass perennials be backfired/striplighted, and that tests of the effects of such burning practices be conducted on perennials.
- That moisture control restrictions of between 15 percent and 20 percent be in effect throughout the season.
- That there be a revision of the south priority rules to ban the practice of permitting intrusions into Eugene of smoke from north winds. (Burning in this area under past practices has been a large part of Eugene's problem, Long said.)
- That there be a ban on north wind burning of fields in the Silverton hills area.
- That there be an increased use of good burning days to burn whatever amounts are authorized.

Long also proposed an acre release system rather than a fixed limited on the number of acres that could be burned. Under such a system, the number of acres to be burned would be determined by air quality and weather conditions.

He said if most of the restrictions were accepted, the city would request that only 30,000 of the state-proposed 180,000 acres be held back from the burning schedule at the start of the burning season.

"Even with this release of additional acres, we could maintain an improvement equivalent to the approximate effect of the burning of 50,000 acres if our other recommendations are successfully implemented," Long said.

Long said if the EQC did not consider the use of the release system, the city should feel free to insist on the 50,000 acre limit sanctioned by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

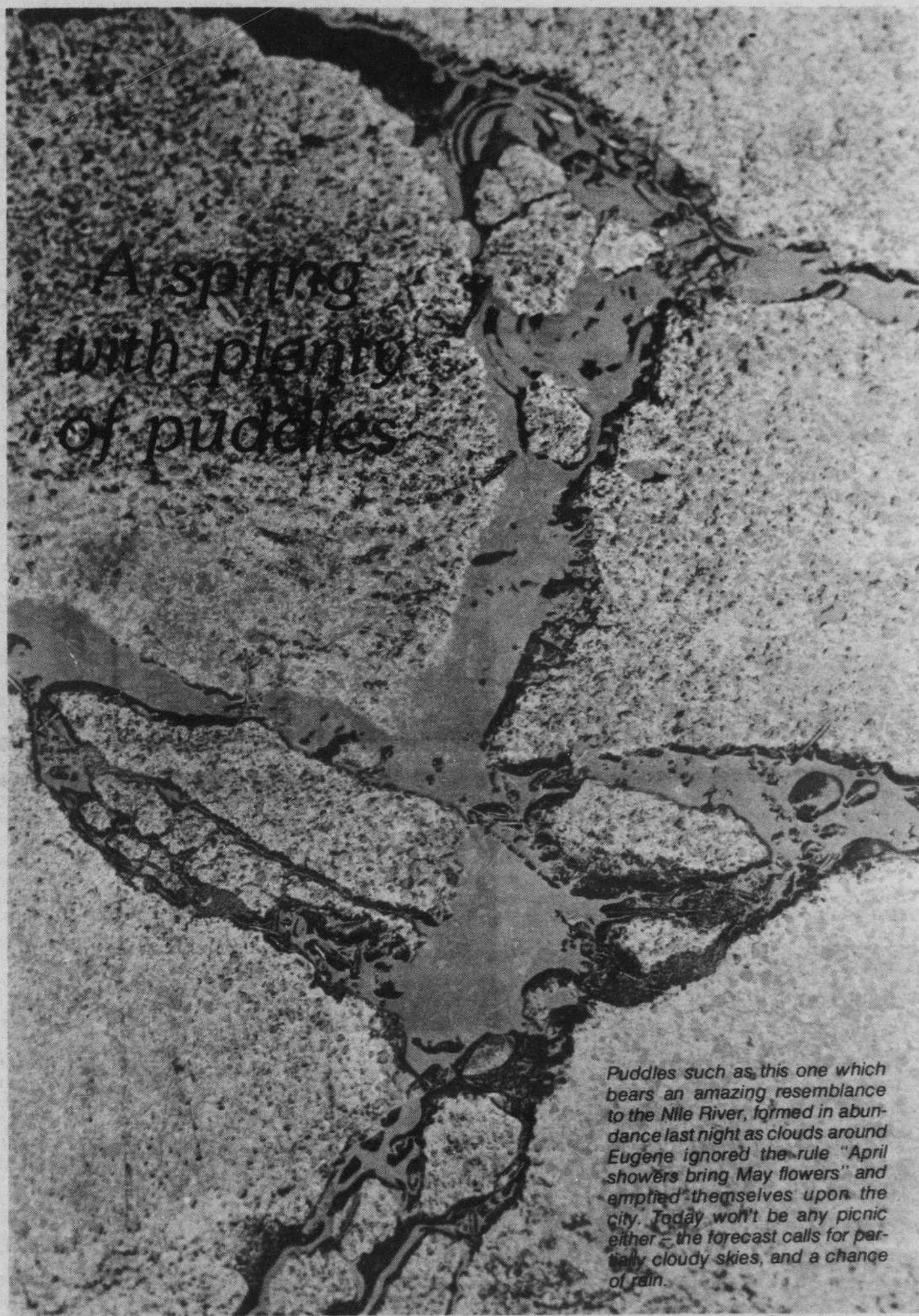


Photo by Adrienne Salinger

Sociology students charge faculty hiring bias

By MELODY WARD
Of the Emerald

More conservative sociology department faculty members have systematically discriminated against job candidates they thought were leftist throughout the recent hiring process, according to several undergraduate sociology students.

The recent hiring dispute came up during the course of an organizational meeting of the Sociology Student Union (SSU) Wednesday afternoon. Students requested that they be quoted anonymously and refused to be photographed because they feared possible re-

tribution on the part of some faculty members in the form of negative reviews or grades.

The students see the hiring dispute as an issue of academic freedom and student participation in governance.

"We're not going to lower ourselves to supporting someone only because they're leftist," a woman graduate student asserted. "Student interests are definitely to the left, but that's not to say that we don't learn from the other (more conservative) members of the faculty."

The students think those persons opposed to hiring leftists are concerned about the

department's image and the "kinds of students in the department." Several believed that those professors fear students don't respect them academically.

"I think the image nationally is one of an exciting, eclectic department. That's why I came to Oregon," a woman said.

Another person quoted a faculty member as saying that the "reason we have a Marxist reputation is because it's the Marxists who publish."

The group unanimously asserted that students were not saying the department needs more Marxists to cover existing course offerings. But they cited a need

shown in a faculty/student poll, for persons who are skilled in historical and qualitative research.

Last week the department's proposed "package" of three candidates was approved by the dean. Two "traditional" sociologists, a married couple, were suggested for two-year appointments and an internationally known "leftist" whose area of expertise is in historical research, is being considered for a visiting appointment.

"They didn't even want to hire the guy because he's a so-called Marxist," one student said. "It's not that we're pulling for him because he's a Marxist, but because

he's more qualified." Several students are dissatisfied with the visiting appointment because it does not imply permanent status.

One student quoted a professor as saying in a faculty meeting that it would be "sexist" to bring the woman candidate to the University as a faculty wife, and that it was then decided to hire her for a fixed position because "they (the couple) wouldn't come otherwise."

The faculty was split over the hiring issue, although the support of the leftist candidate is unanimous among graduate students, who voted in the departmental meetings.