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Photo By Greg Gawlowski

Of late, the Eugene-area sun has been accompanied by wind providing good weather for sailing. Boats like this one on Dorena Lake, southeast of town, make use of the invisible force.

S.A.F.E. seeks herbicide halt

By CATHERINE SIEGNER
Of the Emerald

The Lane County Commissioners have approved in concept a petition that would suspend aerial spraying of herbicides containing TCDD (dioxin) until the Environmental Protection Agency processes and registers them for aerial use.

Bearing 1,250 signatures, the petition was presented to the Commissioners by a newly-formed political action group: The Safety and Full Employment Committee (S.A.F.E.)

The committee, drawn from Citizens Against Toxic Sprays (C.A.T.S.), the Hoedads and the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP), began as an effort to "coordinate like-minded groups toward political action on specific issues," according to S.A.F.E. member Edd Wemple of Cottage Grove.

"The idea to form a committee had been floating around," Wemple says. "Herbicide use is our first issue because we're concerned about the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report linking herbicides with cancer, the cost-effectiveness of manual brush control and we think the people should have a vote on this."

Concerns about the effects of herbicide use have led the State Board of Forestry to schedule hearings on two proposed plans for regulating aerial spraying in Oregon. One plan, submitted by the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC), would establish 200-foot buffer strips around major streams, and 100-foot strips around smaller streams and would require posted notice on all lands scheduled for spraying.

The second plan, proposed by Gov. Straub, outlines similar safeguards but is somewhat more lenient, requiring smaller buffer strips, and less notice to landowners and other residents within the spray areas.

Evidence has grown suggesting that herbicides, when aerially applied, inevitably get into streams, according to S.A.F.E., and may cause cancer and birth defects.

"The evidence points to a risk — an admitted risk," Wemple says. "It's been said a lot lately that you don't need herbicides to get the job done. And check the cost-effectiveness. Manual brush control is less expensive and more labor-intensive."

"Dioxin is the sacrificial lamb," says Wemple. "We are going to make the fight because we believe herbicides are guilty until proven innocent. I've heard industry people say in their own conferences that chemicals are innocent until proven guilty — just as if they (the chemicals) were corporations."

A recent study by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of herbicide-sprayed lands in Coos County showed that even with careful monitoring and communication with the pilot, traces of the chemical were found in streams.

Measurable traces of 2,4,5-T, another herbicide containing dioxin, were also found in a tributary of Fall Creek in the Willamette National Forest recently after aerial spraying.

(Continued on Page 3)

Citizens to reconsider death, taxes

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

Oregon voters will be asked to decide several controversial issues during the November general election. Including a California-style property tax limitation proposal and a revival of the state's death penalty.

Seven citizen initiative proposals were filed with the Secretary of State's office Friday and most of

those petitions had enough signatures to place their measures on the Nov. 7 ballot.

Although the seven petitions met the 5 p.m. deadline for Friday's filing, the secretary of state has until July 22 to verify the signature's on each petition and guarantee the measures a place on the ballot.

The controversial property tax limitation, a carbon copy of California's Proposition 13 which was overwhelmingly approved by

California voters last month, was filed well before the petition deadline.

The petitions that were delivered Friday were brought to the filing office on a handcart in several boxes. Those petitions alone carried an additional 50,000 valid signatures, to bring the total signatures filed on that petition to nearly 200,000.

A week before the deadline, tax revolutionaries and their suppor-

ters rallied on the Capitol steps in Salem to voice their dissatisfaction with the state's tax system and file a truckload of petitions bearing nearly 150,000 signatures.

Other petitions that will probably be on the general election ballot include a measure that would reinstate the death penalty for murder in Oregon, a measure that would end state-funded abortions for poor women and a measure that would make it easier to form a

public utility district.

Several other measures that may face the voters include a proposal to nullify land-use planning goals set by the state's Land Conservation and Development Commission, a proposal to prohibit private electric utilities from charging customers for electricity in advance, and a proposal to license and certify denturists to make and sell false teeth directly to the public instead of selling them through dentists.