

Says there are two sides

Creationist asks for equal time

Story and photo
By MARY M. MASSIE
Of the Emerald

Norman Fox believes God created the world and wants the schools to teach the creation theory along with evolution. Fox is the spokesperson for a group of Springfield residents who object to evolution being taught as fact.

Fox began his campaign in August and has since challenged two junior high texts he considers to favor the evolution theory. Thirty-six Springfield citizens attended a meeting last month and talked about why creation should be taught in Springfield's schools, ways to improve Science instruction in schools and aims and purposes of a creationist group.

"There are only two explanations for the origin and present condition of the universe," says Fox. "It was either made, or it made itself."

He contends that because evolution has not been proven as fact, evidence against evolution constitutes positive evidence for creation and vice versa.

Fox says creationists have met opposition because the public doesn't understand the creationist theory.



For almost a year Norman Fox has been trying to get the idea that God created the world into Springfield junior high and high school science classes. He has organized people who support his view that there are two views to be heard.

"We do not advocate the use of the Bible or religious doctrine as a public school text. We want creationism to be taught from a scientific viewpoint."

Creationists believe the universe was formed during a special period of creation when basic systems of nature came into existence in a completed, functioning state. The evolutionist theory implies all forms of life may be traced back to a single, one-celled ancestral group.

Fox says teaching only the evolution theory violates the constitution and Oregon laws relating to public schools. The latter stipulate a fair representation of differing viewpoints in sensitive and controversial issues, including evolution and creation.

Fox says changing to a two-model approach in science instruction would require teachers to be trained in both theories, textbooks to represent both sides as evenly as possible and all other instructional aids to be balanced.

He promises to continue to pursue the issue before the school board and is in the process of challenging another textbook.

The creationist group has scheduled another meeting for July 18 at the McKenzie Center, 300 W. Fairview St., Springfield.

S.A.F.E.

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The S.A.F.E. committee believes that with manual brush control, these problems will be avoided, and that more jobs will result.

"We propose to use labor-intensive methods," Wemple explains. "The Forest Service might use six people to spray each unit; we would use crews of about a dozen, with each person clearing an average of one-half to one acre per day."

Who are the members of S.A.F.E.? Wemple says he likes to think all 1,250 petition signers are members, but core group members so far are: Ann Tattersall, a member of C.A.T.S.; Fred Miller, coordinator of NCAP in Eugene; Peter Bartel, hot tub merchant and part-time aide to Commissioner Jerry Rust; Edd Wemple; Becky Casstevens, also of C.A.T.S.; Mike Bresgal, secretary of Hoedads; Ann Cohen of Eugene, and Mark Schwebke of Oakridge, member of the Willamette Worker's Association.

Another meeting is scheduled tonight at 7:30 in the Grower's Market at 454 Willamette St. to prepare for the State Board of Forestry hearings August 3 and 4 in Salem, development of a maximum amount of contracts for brush control on National Forest lands and develop-

ment of a trained labor force, and organization for the upcoming ballot measure fight.

"We want to make sure that the alternatives (to aerial use of herbicides) and the cost-effectiveness information are available before the election in November," Wemple says.

Petition circulation will last until November. Blank petitions can be picked up at the Hoedad's office in the Grower's Market, or at the NCAP office at Eighth Avenue and Lincoln Street.

Now that the Commissioners have approved the petition in con-

cept, it will be sent to Larry Shaw, the county counsel, for rewording. The Commissioners will vote again when the ballot title and new wording are ready.

"We expect it will come up on the Commissioner's agenda on July 19," says Peter Bartel, another S.A.F.E. member. "We plan to be there for a display of solidarity on this issue."

S.A.F.E. plans to have a fund-raiser soon to pay for the upcoming effort. In the meantime, contributions from interested people can be sent to the committee's treasurer, Becky Casstevens, 1955 W. 12th,

Eugene, Oregon 97402.

Bartel and Wemple are optimistic that the measure will pass, but they recognize the opposition to a ban on aerial use of herbicides in Lane County.

"The forest industry honestly believes that herbicides are a needed management tool," Wemple says. "And farmers haven't seen any alternatives to herbicides in general. They have no time to experiment with crops; with agricultural uses, things go slower, and new ways have to be phased in."

The S.A.F.E. committee is

gambling on the people's wisdom with its herbicide petition. "The industry brings such questions to court so the people can't fight them," Bartel says. "They have lawyers on retainer. But people can use their votes instead of their money — that's the strength of a plebiscite."

The Commissioners could approve a ban on aerial herbicide spraying in Lane County with or without a vote of the people. The S.A.F.E. committee wants the public to decide. As Bartel phrases it, "Put a vote of the people on the issue, and it's much more devastating."

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