

... Of environmental concern

By Catherine Siegner

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will hold a conference July 24 and 25 in Portland to discuss whether hearings should be held on restarting the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant.

The NRC recently turned down a petition submitted by the plant's owners asking that Trojan be allowed to restart while modifications to the control building are being made. It was found earlier this year that the control building walls do not meet federal specifications for withstanding earthquakes.

If the NRC decides to hold hearings on the matter, restarting the plant could be postponed until next year while at least eight individuals and two organizations that have requested to intervene present testimony on the modifications.

The conference will be held in room 223 of the Federal Building, 1220 S.W. 3rd Ave., Portland.

A total eclipse of the sun will occur in the early morning hours

on February 26, 1979 over the Northwestern United States.

The University's Outdoor Program plans to coordinate efforts with other outdoor groups to find locations which will offer the best opportunity to view this unusual event.

Ideal locations would be high in the mountains where the sun shines most of the time such as the Eagle Cap Wilderness in Oregon; the Mt. Adams Wilderness in Washington; the Idaho Primitive Area, and the Bob Marshal Wilderness Area in Montana.

If you have a site in mind or would like to be notified of efforts to see the eclipse, write to Gary Grimm, University Outdoor Program, EMU Room 23, University of Oregon, Eugene 97403.

All plans and contact persons for the event will be published in the University's Cooperative Wilderness Adventures brochure to be sent out December 1, 1978.

Workers at Portland General Electric Co.'s coal plant site near Boardman staged a sympathy walkout July 12, after a Spokane man working at the site was crushed by boxes he was loading onto a truck.

The man, Loyal Vick, was taken to a Pendleton hospital but died en route. Workers maintained that telephones should be provided

on the site, and an ambulance helicopter should be at hand in case of accidents.

Union representatives met with PGE officials Friday and were promised the safety improvements.

Half of the 150 to 200 workers returned to their jobs Friday, while the rest were standing around or had left the site.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has chosen the Wheelabrator CleanFuel Corporation of Washington, D.C., for negotiation of a contract to operate the DOE's Biomass Liquefaction Facility in Albany.

The Facility, built in 1976 at a cost of \$3.8 million, is a testing station for perfecting a process of converting wood chips to oil. Wood chips are ground to a coarse powder and blended with a coal tar distillate to produce a thick paste. Gasses are added and the paste is cooked at high temperature until it is converted to oil by a

chemical reaction.

The two year contract will run through June 30, 1980.

The State Board of Forestry's three regional committees, which advise on forest practice rules, will meet this month to consider proposals by the Oregon Environmental Council and Gov. Straub to tighten controls on the use of herbicides in Oregon's forests.

The Northwest Regional Forest Practices Committee will meet in Salem on July 26 at the State Forester's Conference Room, 2600 State St., beginning at 10 a.m.

The meetings, open to the public, are being held to determine if the committees wish to make any recommendations to the State Board of Forestry at the formal public hearings on the herbicide proposals scheduled for August 3 and 4 in Salem.

The formal public hearings in August will also be held in the State Forester's Conference

Room, beginning at 9 a.m. each day.

The Crabshell Alliance, an anti-nuclear group based in Washington State, has filed a class-action suit against the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS) in an effort to halt construction of five nuclear power plants in the state.

The Alliance charged that the plants planned by WPPSS degrade the environment, cause birth defects, and lower property values.

In another action filed against WPPSS in Grays Harbor County Superior Court, the Alliance is seeking \$1.5 million for "illegal actions" taken against demonstrators during a June 25 occupation of the Satsop nuclear plant construction site.

Crabshell charges that "legal demonstrators were damaged by the malicious and arbitrary instigation of arrest and prosecution" by WPPSS on June 25.

Drug patrols cut, sheriff unhappy

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

Lane county drug users may be relieved, but Sheriff David Burks isn't smiling. Budget cuts that have taken nearly \$200,000 from the county's Public Safety Department have taken a large bite out of the county's narcotics and drug enforcement team.

Burks, speaking at the Republican Roundtable Luncheon Friday, said the loss of \$175,000 from the Sheriff's Department budget alone has left five people without jobs. Two of those belonged to the narcotics team which enforces county drug laws.

The cuts were the result of programs added to the county budget by the Lane County Commissioners several weeks ago. The programs weren't part of the original county budget, and money had to be appropriated from existing programs, Burks said.

Burks protested the appropriations during a news conference after the commissioners intited the new programs, but to no avail.

"I did go to the people because I was concerned about what was happening to our budget," Burks said. "The people had a right to know what to expect from the sheriff's department if the cuts went into effect."

The Department of Public Safety, which runs on an annual budget of about \$6 million, usually gives \$200,000 back to the commissioners each year. Most of its operating funds come from outside the county, Burks said.

Federal funding for the county Traffic team, the Interagency Rape team and the burglary team will end at the end of this year. After that, the programs will be taken over by the county. Which may not happen if the commissioners take any more money from the sheriff's department, Burke said.

Burks said the budget cuts forced him to set up 13 priorities for the sheriff's department. At the top of the list is the new jail, scheduled to open next March.

With the addition of the new jail, built with county tax bonds, the department would be able to house almost 250 prisoners in both the old and the new facilities. The old jail, on 5th Street downtown, houses 188 prisoners, nearly 40 more than its capacity, Burks pointed out.

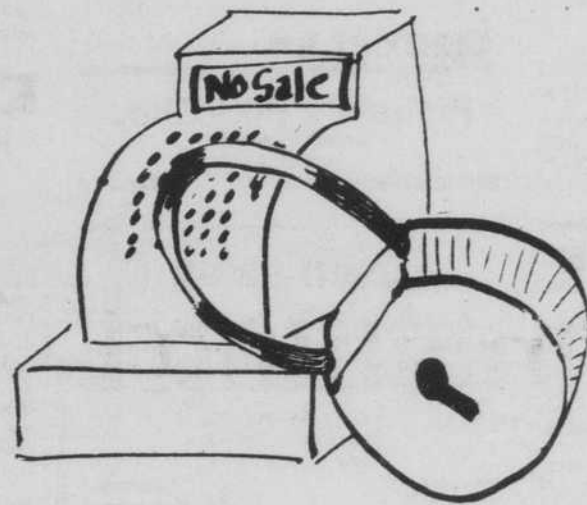
"Frankly, there are a lot of people sleeping on the floor over there right now."

But, even with increased jail space, Burks says, he and the county's narcotics team won't be able to fill the cells with area drug law violators. The loss of two narcotics agents and a lab scientist have put a damper on drug law enforcement, he observed.

"We aren't out to get everyone who smokes marijuana," Burks explained. "That's not what we are going to do. Now we're going to go after the big-time dealers who are selling the drugs in the county."

Oregon Daily Emerald

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