

catherine siegner

of environmental concern

The Trojan Nuclear Plant may not be operating until 1987, but now there will be enough room to store 9 years of radioactive waste produced at the plant.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Friday approved a Portland General Electric Co. request to more than double the number of on-site fuel storage racks.

PGE had planned to reprocess the spent fuel, but President Carter has postponed plans for reprocessing plant construction indefinitely.

Workers will have to enter the storage pool to install the additional racks. The water in the pool has spent fuel in it, as well as a dangerous amount of radioactivity. (Anybody want a job?).

Speaking of nuclear waste, the Washington Public Interest Research Group recently released a study assessing the effects of establishing a major national waste repository at the Hanford Reservation near Richland.

The report said Hanford may become a waste dump by default because Washington state has no public policy on nuclear disposal, and because other states are actively organized against establishment of such a facility in their territory.

"Critical uncertainties exist regarding the details of groundwater flow, controlled by the Columbia River, which flows through the Hanford Reservation," the study said.

The Survival Center at the University will hold its first meeting of the school year this afternoon at 5 in the EMU, room to be posted.

Staff will be introduced, and projects and function of the center will be discussed. The public is encouraged to attend.

A 48-acre stand of old-growth timber near Rockaway has been donated to the Nature Conservancy by Publisher's Paper Co.

The National Park Service has nominated the area as a natural landmark because it contains one of the few stands of spruce, hemlock and red cedar.

The nature Conservancy is a non-profit organization that preserves land in its natural state when possible.

A trout management report for the Deschutes River has been submitted by the Fishery Division staff to the State Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The report suggests alternatives for stocking of hatchery fish along with wild fish management on 100 miles of the lower Deschutes. The legal minimum trout size would be changed from 6 inches to 8 inches. This change is designed to protect young steelhead in the spring.

Proposed regulations for 1979 call for a bag limit of just one hatchery fin-clipped steelhead and no harvest of wild steelhead. The commission expects an abnormally low run of steelhead next year.

The Northwest will not feel the effects of a new energy bill this year.

The Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act will not be considered until the next session of Congress. Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson (D-Wash.) announced Friday. Jackson is chair of the Senate

Energy Committee, which is amending the bill.

The legislation would almost completely restructure the Bonneville Power Administration, give unprecedented power to the BPA administrator, and allow private, investor-owned utilities in the Northwest access to federal hydropower that is now reserved

exclusively for public bodies and cooperatives.

Northwest environmental groups are united in opposition to the bill.

The Lane County Mycological Society's annual Mushroom show is scheduled for Saturday at Valley River Center.

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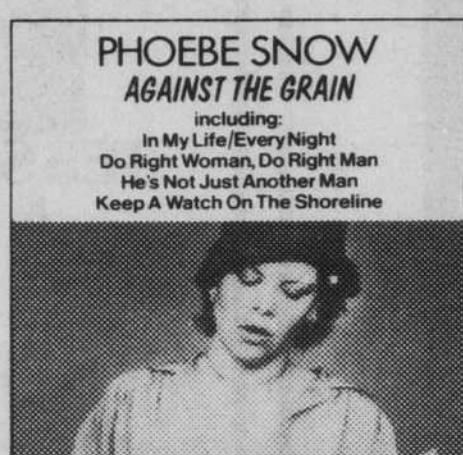
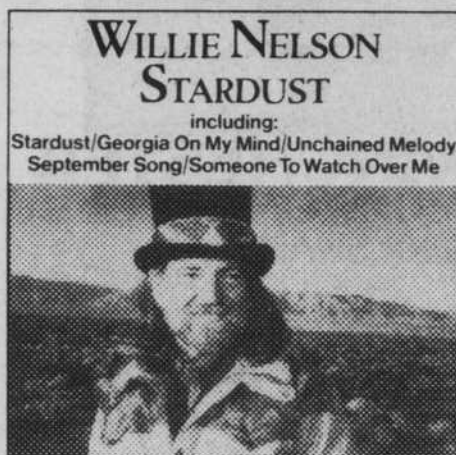
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