

Jet boat tour draws mixed testimony

By LORRAINE NELSON
Of the Emerald

Between 35 and 40 people signed up to testify at the Marine Board hearing on Willamette River motorboats Wednesday evening.

The hearing, prompted by a jet boat operation on the river between Valley River Inn and Harrisburg, was designed to allow the public to address the potential safety, pollution and noise problems that motor boats might cause.

Brad Harris, director of the State Marine Board in Salem, was present to accept testimony and representatives of the Coast Guard, the Department of Transportation in Salem and the Lane County Sheriff's Department were present to answer questions.

The Marine Board has no authority to prevent the operation of motor boats on the Willamette, but they may be able to restrict the speed and noise of the boats Harris said.

Harris will consider Wednesday's testimony and continue to accept cards and letters through Dec. 1. Sometime between Dec. 1 and the Marine Board meeting in mid-December, Harris will make a recommendation to the board as to what action to take if any.

The person who sparked this controversy is Roger Lefler, the sole operator of Valley River Excursions. Lefler began making round-trip runs to Harrisburg from the Valley River Inn in September. He says he plans to run three trips a day with his 40-passenger jet boat during the summer season next year.

Many of those who testified at the hearing Wednesday evening were people who use the river for canoeing, kayaking and drift boating.

David Jensen, speaking for the 84-member McKenzie River Guides, urged the Marine Board to adopt regulations that would provide for proper safety and noise levels.

Jensen related the Guide's experiences as drift boaters on the 10-mile stretch of the Rogue River that they share with motorboats. He said that while boat operators were careful in steering their boats, confrontation with the motor boats caused the drift boaters to scurry to safety.

"While we have our fishing lines out," Jensen said, "scurrying is impeded indeed."

Herb Charbonneau, who has lived less than 100 feet from the banks of the Willamette since 1969, said he has seen Roger Lefler's jet boat on the river and that the noise level is "quite low."



Graphic by Tom Ettel

"His weight (the weight of the boat) wouldn't bother anyone," Charbonneau said. "His weight is very flat. I've watched him go by canoes and he is very careful," he added.

"How many older people would like to take a ride on this river?" Charbonneau questioned. "I've watched and there are quite a few on his boat. I think a lot of these people (the ones opposed to motorboats on the river) are being a little bit selfish," he said.

State Rep. David Frohnmayer, R-Eugene, said there is a "complete lack of clarity over who has jurisdiction over what kind of issue."

Frohnmayer recommended that the marine board issue as statement as to "precisely which agency has control over which issue," environmental or otherwise.

"There are a number of people who would like to be heard," Frohnmayer said.

Pete Patricelli, representing himself and the McKenzie Flyfishers, said the operation of motor boats on the Willamette River was not compatible with the "tremendous" number of novice boaters and inner tubers who use the river during the summer.

Patricelli said normal summer water levels were such as to provide a limited amount of navigable water.

"There are a number of chutes where there is room for only a canoe or a jet boat, not both," Patricelli said.

Testimony was divided on the actual environmental effects of motorboats on the Willamette. Some felt wildlife would be affected and others claimed to have seen no damaging effects in other places.

Further comment can be submitted to Brad Morris, State Marine Director, State Marine Board, 3000 Market Street N.E., #505, Salem, 97310. Harris can be reached by phone at 1-378-8589.

emu Cultural Forum

The Father of

BLUEGRASS
music

BILL MONROE &
the BLUEGRASS BOYS

Featuring Kenny Baker on fiddle
Plus The Balfa Brothers, Cajun Music



Thursday, November 2
Two Shows - 7 & 10 pm
EMU Ballroom

Tickets: \$4.00 U of O students
\$5.50 General Public

Ticket Outlets: EMU Main Desk, U of O Bookstore, Everybody's Records Eugene and Corvallis, Backstage Dancewear and Theatrical Supply and Kimball's House of Strings

ann treneman

political rhetoric

The phrase "taxpayers' revolt" has a revolutionary ring to it—visions of homeowners mounting their steeds, clashing shields with 1.5 percent emblazoned on them, and riding up the steps of the Capitol.

Measure 6, a virtual carbon copy of California's Proposition 13, has been heralded as a "mandate from the people," "an answer

to bloated bureaucracy" and a "message to government."

Measure 6, a virtual carbon copy of California's Proposition 13, has been heralded as a "mandate from the people," "an answer to bloated bureaucracy" and a "message to government."

Renters receive exactly zilch promise of increased rent relief or lowered rents if Measure 6 pas-

ses. In fact, the rumor is that because of the cut in the amount of taxes paid, the Legislature may axe the Homeowners and Rental Relief Program.

In California few savings have been passed from landlord to renter in the aftermath of Proposition 13.

Tenants' organizations are up in arms around California over their plight, and Los Angeles has imposed a moratorium on rent increases in response to the renter's situation.

Measure 11 on the Oregon ballot, the Legislature's comeback to 6, would reduce property taxes by 50 percent and contains a clause requiring comparable relief for renters.

Richard Munn, a tax expert, prophesies that an agency would be set up to hand out the refunds that would not be connected with HAARP. He says HAARP will probably be retained under 11.

If Measure 11 passes, a renter who pays \$125 a month with an annual income of \$7,000 would receive \$193 a year back from HAARP and under the provision in Measure 11 would also pocket \$133 back in property tax relief compensation, Munn computes.

Proponents of Measure 5 argue that landlords would pass on their savings to renters. That remains to be seen, but it's definitely a gamble. If they don't, the 36 percent of the population in Lane County that are renters will be left out in the cold.



German
AUTO SERVICE

reliable service for
your foreign car.

**VW'S MERCEDES BMW'S
DATSUN TOYOTA**

GUENTER SCHOENER
Bus. Ph. 342-2912

2025 Franklin Blvd.
Eugene, Ore. 97403

\$1000 REWARD

For information leading to the recovery of a
STOLEN
Antique Mahogany Music Box

circa 1890-1900, 24x24x16" with inlaid drawing of a woman and bike inside lid. Missing side crank.

Respond in writing to Dept. R-101, P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403 or call Judi or Ron at 484-0617. Replies kept confidential.