

'Quiet zone' on river may restrict jet boats

By LORRAINE NELSON
Of the Emerald

The creation of a quiet zone along the Willamette River may be one way to clear up recent controversy over allowing jet boats to operate on the river.

After listening to testimony at a public hearing in Eugene in October, and after receiving more than 100 letters on the subject, Brad Morris, director of the State Marine Board, has come up with a recommendation that he feels may help Willamette River-users live with jet boats.

The Marine Board has no au-

thority to prevent the operation of motor boats on the Willamette, but they may be able to restrict the speed and noise of the boats.

Morris will recommend to the Marine Board at its Dec. 15 meeting that the board ask the Department of Environmental Quality to study the feasibility of creating a quiet zone on the Willamette River from Harrisburg to Eugene.

No such zones exist in the state at this time.

A quiet zone is defined to be "any land or facility designated by the commission as an appropriate area where the quality of serenity, tranquility and quiet are of extraordinary significance and serve as an important public need."

"One important criteria for judging a quiet area," Morris says, "is that it must be quiet already."

The noise level for the Willamette River is set at 84 decibels under current state standards. With the establishment of a quiet zone, the level could range anywhere from 45 to 60 decibels depending upon the time of day, Morris says.

The entire controversy over motor boats was prompted by a jetboat operation on the Willamette River between Valley River Inn and Harrisburg. Roger Lefler, the sole operator of Valley River Excursions, began making round-trips to Harrisburg from the Valley River Inn in September.

A reading of the noise level of Lefler's boat taken in October measured 82 decibels.

The establishment of a quiet zone would not necessarily mean that Lefler's operation or any motor boat would be kept off the river, Morris says. Decreasing speed and making muffler adjustments are two factors that might help a motor boat meet quiet zone standards, Morris says.

A motor boat operator could also approach the Coast Guard to question the legality of the state's

establishment of a quiet zone, Morris says.

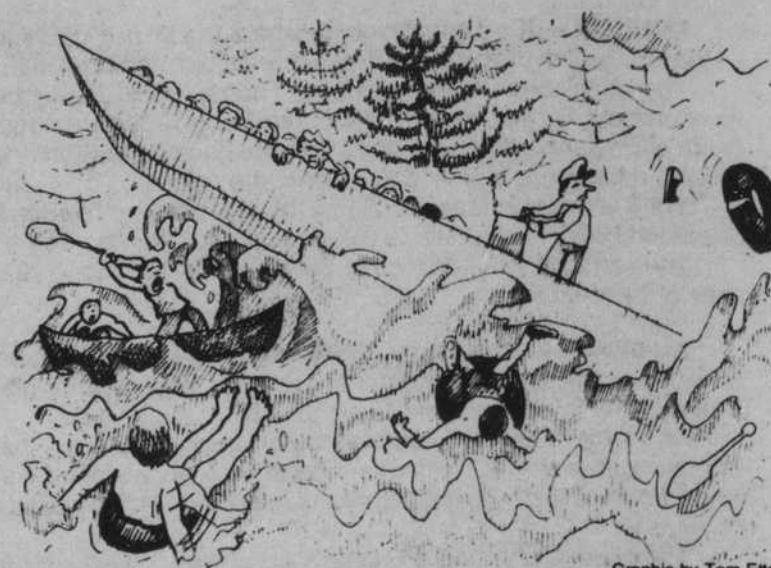
If the recommendation is approved by the Marine Board on Dec. 15, the request will be forwarded to the Environmental Quality Commission of the DEQ. That commission will then study the issue and make a recommendation to the DEQ. The DEQ has the power to establish such a zone, Morris says.

The question of who has jurisdiction over the operation of motor boats on the river was one that

could not be answered when this controversy first began.

Morris and a Marine Board staff member are currently working on a definition of the jurisdictional roles of state, local and federal agencies and that information will be released later this week.

Most of the people who contacted Morris were opposed to jet boats on the river and many said they were opposed for reasons of safety, noise pollution, the impact on fish and wildlife or other environmental concerns.



Graphic by Tom Ettel

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Commission rules Trojan safe

The Trojan Nuclear Power Plant near Rainier is safe and could be operated while repairs are made to the walls of the control building, the staff of the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission says.

The plant was shut down for routine refueling March 17 and has remained shut down because it was discovered that the walls of the control building do not meet federal license requirements for earthquake resistance.

The commission staff ordered

the Trojan Plant's operators, Portland General Electric Co., to keep the plant closed until hearings could be conducted. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board is scheduled to resume hearings on the safety of restarting the plant Dec. 11 in Salem.

In a hearing held Oct. 23 to Nov. 3, the question of interim operation was taken up. Although most of the testimony on interim operation was given then, some information only became available afterwards and the parties had not

had an opportunity to analyze it.

The staff indicated it was satisfied that seismic instrumentation at the plant is adequate to provide immediate detection of an earthquake and to evaluate its effect on the plant. It added that the operators of the plant have procedures that would enable them to shut the plant down cold and it concluded that PGE should be allowed to operate the Trojan plant while the walls are being strengthened to meet design standards.

Hints given on school survival

As finals week approaches, and pressure on students increases along with library hours, campus "experts" have a few hints to get through the next two weeks.

Preparation for exams can begin with the course description, says Susan Lesyk of the Learning Resources Center. By examining the description, a student can

generally predict the types of questions the instructor might ask, she says.

Students must also know how to use the University library, Lesyk says, or face the prospect of a poor term paper.

LRC offers classes throughout the year exploring study techniques, including classes on examinations, speed reading and others designed to help students deal successfully with their studies.

But pressure from studies can be more serious than some students think. Many students become ill after finals week says Willette Rude, a health educator at the Student Health Center.



Besides the many gift ideas, the Bookstore carries single and boxed Christmas cards, and wrapping and mailing supplies.

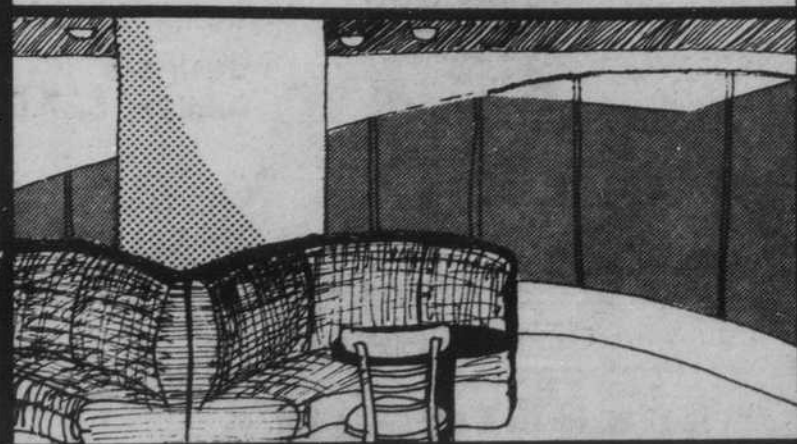
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