



catherine siegner

# of environmental concern

Three nuclear plants under construction in the East are losing support. The Public Service Co., a private utility in New Hampshire, announced Saturday it intends to divest part of its interest in the Seabrook project, as well as Millstone 3 in Connecticut and Pilgrim 2 in Massachusetts.

The company explained its unusual move is the result of an adverse political climate in New Hampshire, and to public opposition of Construction Work in Progress charges used to finance the utility's investments.

Incorporating CWIP charges, into utility bills is no longer

allowed in Oregon. Voters rejected the practice last November.

**A 500 kilovolt transmission line** to carry electricity produced at Wyoming coal plants to southwestern Oregon has been approved by Public Utility Commissioner Charles Davis. The line is a project of Pacific

Power & Light Co., one of Oregon's two major private utilities. PP&L owns the coal plants in Wyoming and substantial coal deposits there.

The power line route will go from Medford to a point east of Klamath Falls, northeast to Burns and on into Idaho, where it will connect with Wyoming lines.

Residents of the Medford area claim there is no need for the power line would be capable of transmitting and have formed a group to formally protest Davis' decision.

**talists** decided the Forest Service's RARE II recommendations couldn't have been any worse. Gov. Vic Atiyeh suggested further reductions in state wilderness allocations.

Atiyeh has proposed an 83 percent reduction in the current recommendation of 370,000 additional wilderness acres. His plan would limit additions to the state's wilderness system to eight areas, for a total of 61,000 acres.

The governor will still have to get congressional backing for his proposal, and it is unclear who among Oregon's delegation will sponsor it.

## Laws protect artifacts

# Site plundering robs heritage

By GLENN BOETTCHER  
Of the Emerald

Decades after the introduction of state and federal laws aimed at preserving Native American artifacts and other "cultural resources," agencies are beginning to enforce the rules, says University Archaeology Prof. Melvin Aikens.

The Federal Antiquities Act of 1906 created a legal basis for preservation of cultural resources on public lands, and Oregon followed with a similar law that protects artifacts on state-owned properties.

Aikens says he knows of several cases involving the act that were recently brought to court, and some have resulted in convictions. The penalties, he says, are usually small fines and a number of days spent in public service.

Beginning with the National

Environmental Protection Act, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service and other state and federal agencies began employing specialists to preserve cultural resources on lands they control. The specialists work to prevent agencies from disrupting resources of cultural and historical value.

In addition, the last session of the Oregon Legislature passed a bill that protects Indian graves and other such sites on state lands.

The bill, which Aikens says is the first of its kind, prohibits vandals from disrupting grave sites and requires arrangements with the Indian group to which the grave belongs to be made before any scientific studies are conducted.

Aikens says growing concern over cultural resource protection is an important issue in the Willamette Valley, where the

country side has hundreds of sites, not all of which are surveyed.

"The only records of human occupation on this continent are archaeological records," says Aikens. "Many of them have been destroyed already. It is a dwindling resource."

Cultural resources also take years to find and document.

A 1975 survey of archaeological studies in Oregon only scratches the surface he says. The study, which Aikens edited, is 552 pages long.

"Right now we know prehistory up to about 3,000 years ago. But it is supportable that people have been living here (in the Willamette Valley) for over 10,000 years," he claims.

"So really we've just made a good start. It will be decades before we have a full picture."

Despite the abundance of cultural resources in the Willamette Valley and the large number of people interested in finding artifacts, Aikens says one of the few ways people can legally pursue their interest is through classes.

Recent archaeological work in Portland allowed residents of that city to participate in excavation work because of the size of the project. "There is all too little of that sort of thing," Aikens says.

After Oregon environmen-

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## Resource center offers latest news from Salem

The ASUO Legislative Resource Center is stocked with information from the Capitol in Salem that in effect brings the Legislature to campus, says Kent Laverty, one of the center's organizers.

"This is the best way possible to bring the Legislature to students," he says. The center has copies of committee agendas, bills and resolutions, daily legislative calendars, Oregon Revised Statutes and other legislative pamphlets.

Daily calendars outlining the progress of bills are received in the late afternoons.

Laverty says a chart is being planned to follow the progress

of bills the ASUO is lobbying for such as the student evaluation and child care bills.

He urges students to use the center to follow bills, write letters to legislators in support of bills, or as a general information resource.

Laverty, who also works in the ASUO state affairs office, says student input to legislators is especially important on the bill for release of faculty evaluation data. "We need the down-home stuff," he says. "One-to-one contact is great."

The Legislative Resource Center is located in EMU suite 4, and is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

## "Who Me? — Smoke a Pipe?"

### 6 Reasons why more people are smoking pipes

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