



Photo by Pat Sullivan

Spring surrender

Cynthia Kokis, right, began her two-day stay in the Lane County Jail Monday by surrendering a bunch of tulips given to her by Nina Rapisarda and other supporters. Kokis was given the sentence and fined \$150 after a six-member jury ruled she violated the city's trespassing ordinance by refusing to dismantle a display advocating the boycott of Nestles products in Valley River Center Jan. 13. Kokis' supporters also presented her with a limerick and promised to maintain a daytime vigil while she serves her sentence. She is an employee of Clergy and Laity Concerned, a group involved in promoting the boycott of Nestles' products.

TDA's Lynch tells Demos

Three Mile nuclear accident reshapes U.S. public opinion

By RON TAYLOR
Of the Emerald

The Three Mile Island nuclear plant accident marks a dividing point in public response to the Demo Forum.

"The nuclear industry now shouldn't be allowed to say it has found mechanical causes for the accident and to say that they have fixed them," Lynch said. "As long as there are humans sitting at the controls, the reason for the accident is still there."

Comparing low-level radiation to the bubonic plague that

swept through Europe in the 18th century, Lynch said the nuclear industry uses people as "premier guinea pigs" in determining just what effects that kind of radiation has on humans over a long period of time.

Lynch said the best thing to come out of the Three Mile Island accident was a week of intense media coverage, which he said did more to raise awareness of the dangers of nuclear power than much of the work anti-nuclear groups have been doing for years.

Legislative action now being taken in Oregon to either block further construction or to shut down nuclear plants has a direct link to the Pennsylvania accident, he said. The Pebble Springs project, planned for eastern Oregon, will now "almost certainly not be completed," he added.

Lynch said if the Oregon Legislature doesn't stop Pebble Springs, the state's nuclear siting council will. If that happens, Lynch said he knows many people who would be willing to place their bodies in the way of

construction.

"If the (Three Mile Island) hydrogen bubble had exploded inside the reactor, most of eastern Pennsylvania would have been uninhabitable for at least several hundred years," Lynch said.

Lynch added that the nuclear industry is willing to take those chances because of the large amounts of money it has invested in nuclear energy. He claimed the industry does not have all the answers to make nuclear power safe.

Lynch compared nuclear power to someone jumping out of an airplane with all of the materials needed to make a parachute and then trying to put it all together before hitting the ground.

He claimed it would be cheaper to shut down the Trojan plant near Rainier right now, rather than let it fulfill its life expectancy of 25-30 years. A conservative estimate of the cost to decommission Trojan, he said, is \$30 million, but other estimates go as high as \$1 billion.

Hearings set on evaluations

The House Committee on Education will hold a public hearing on HB 2831, a bill that would mandate release of faculty evaluations, Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. in Salem.

Anyone interested in testifying or attending the hearing can arrange transportation through the ASUO office, 686-3724.

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