

Weaver: nuclear power is 'dinosaur'

By CATHERINE SIEGNER
Of the Emerald

Nuclear power generation in the United States is a "thrashing, dying dinosaur," says U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver.

Weaver, D-Eugene, who recently completed a visit to the Three Mile Island plant in Harrisburg, Pa. and returned to Eugene Tuesday, says that dinosaur could "still do a lot of damage with that tail while it's dying." Weaver is chair of a congressional task force that recently presented its findings of the near-meltdown in Harrisburg to a House committee.

In its report, the task force found that design error, equipment malfunction, operator error, communications confusion and violation of federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations contributed to the seriousness of the March 29 accident.

"They think they're going to get that plant back in operation," Weaver said Tuesday. "No way are they going to get that plant back. There are 36,000 fuel rods in the reactor vessel that are badly mangled, and that vessel will be radioactive for hundreds of years."

Weaver said no one knows how much radioactivity escaped from the Three Mile Island plant after a valve failure caused overheating of the reactor core. "They are required to have 12 dosimeters around the plant (monitoring radiation emissions) but they didn't even bring in a portable van to follow the plume (a cloud of radiation) until a day later."

Two amendments Weaver introduced regarding nuclear power were recently adopted by the House Interior Committee. One, offered by Weaver and U.S. Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., places a moratorium on the issuance of nuclear plant construction permits until April 1, 1980.

The other requires evacuation plans be approved by the NRC before the issuance of any new operating licenses.

Weaver said only 10 states currently have evacua-

"I want a Northwest energy bill, but I'm going to expose this for what it is."

tion plans in place even though they are required by law. "After Three Mile Island, it is clear we need those plans." He said the moratorium will allow further investigation of the Pennsylvania accident and provide time to implement safety measures at new and existing plants.

"A whole plant can be brought to its knees by a condensate pump going out," Weaver said. "With hydropower, if something goes wrong, you just take out a monkey wrench and fix it. With nuclear, you've got this complicated equipment containing this powerful force."

Weaver discussed the regional energy legislation introduced in Congress for the third time by U.S. Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., calling it a "bill simply to finance nuclear plants" in the Northwest.

Jackson's bill, which would allow the Bonneville Power Administration to contract for the output of nuclear plants built by the region's utilities, is now being debated in the Senate, and has the solid support of Northwest governors and congressional delegates, except for Weaver.

"I would sacrifice my political career on this," he said Tuesday. "We just cannot afford to have the federal government underwrite these nuclear plants."

Weaver said the utilities cannot afford to build nuclear plants themselves anymore, and now want the government's help. He has introduced an alternative regional energy bill that prohibits the BPA from financing plants, and mandates cost-effective renewable energy programs and conservation.

He said he wanted hearings on the Jackson bill here in the Northwest, but "they just about lynched me. You wouldn't believe how the railroad is in. People back in Washington don't even want to discuss it."

Weaver said he will attempt to kill the Jackson legislation on the floor of the House before it gets to a joint conference committee.

"I want a Northwest energy bill," he insisted, "but I'm going to expose this for what it is."

Polled pupils favor accessible evaluations

By NANCYANN LOFGREN
Of the Emerald

More than four out of five University students want access to faculty evaluations, according to a Student University Affairs Board poll.

The survey, conducted over the last month, shows that 86.1 percent of the 872 students polled favor access to student evaluations of courses and instructors. Slightly more than 4.3 percent said they didn't favor open evaluations; 5.9 percent were unsure, and 3.6 percent said they didn't care.

Nearly 48 percent of students surveyed believed that the ASUO should allocate incidental fees to pay for open course evaluations, while 25.9 percent said the evaluations should be funded some other way; 22.6 percent were unsure.

If course and instructor evaluations had been released and had been made easily accessible, 74.7 percent of the

students polled say it would have affected their selections of classes and instructors. About 8 percent said access wouldn't have affected their selections.

Students polled said they dropped or withdrew from 2,176 classes because those courses did not meet their needs.

In response to another question, students polled said they would not have enrolled in 1,217 of those courses if they'd had access to course and instructor evaluations, an average of 1.4 courses per student.

The SUAB survey was conducted by its members surveying 10 percent of their academic constituencies, with law and doctoral students not polled.

SUAB member Kevin Pope says he is pleased with the results.

"The survey tells us the issue isn't dead," says Pope.

Jim Bernau, executive director of the Oregon Student Lobby, says his group will use

the poll's figures in lobbying after its accuracy is checked. Bernau says the survey provides the lobby with figures on how many students drop classes from lack of information.

This survey, adds Bernau, can be used to illustrate to the

Legislature how open evaluations can save money for the students, the faculty and the University because fewer classes will be dropped. The lobby claims \$4 million could be saved in tuition and \$16 million saved in living expenses if students dropped one less

class each during their academic career.

Pope says he doesn't think open faculty evaluations would eliminate drops, but says access would "ease it (dropping) some" and would save money for the students and the University.

emu Food Service



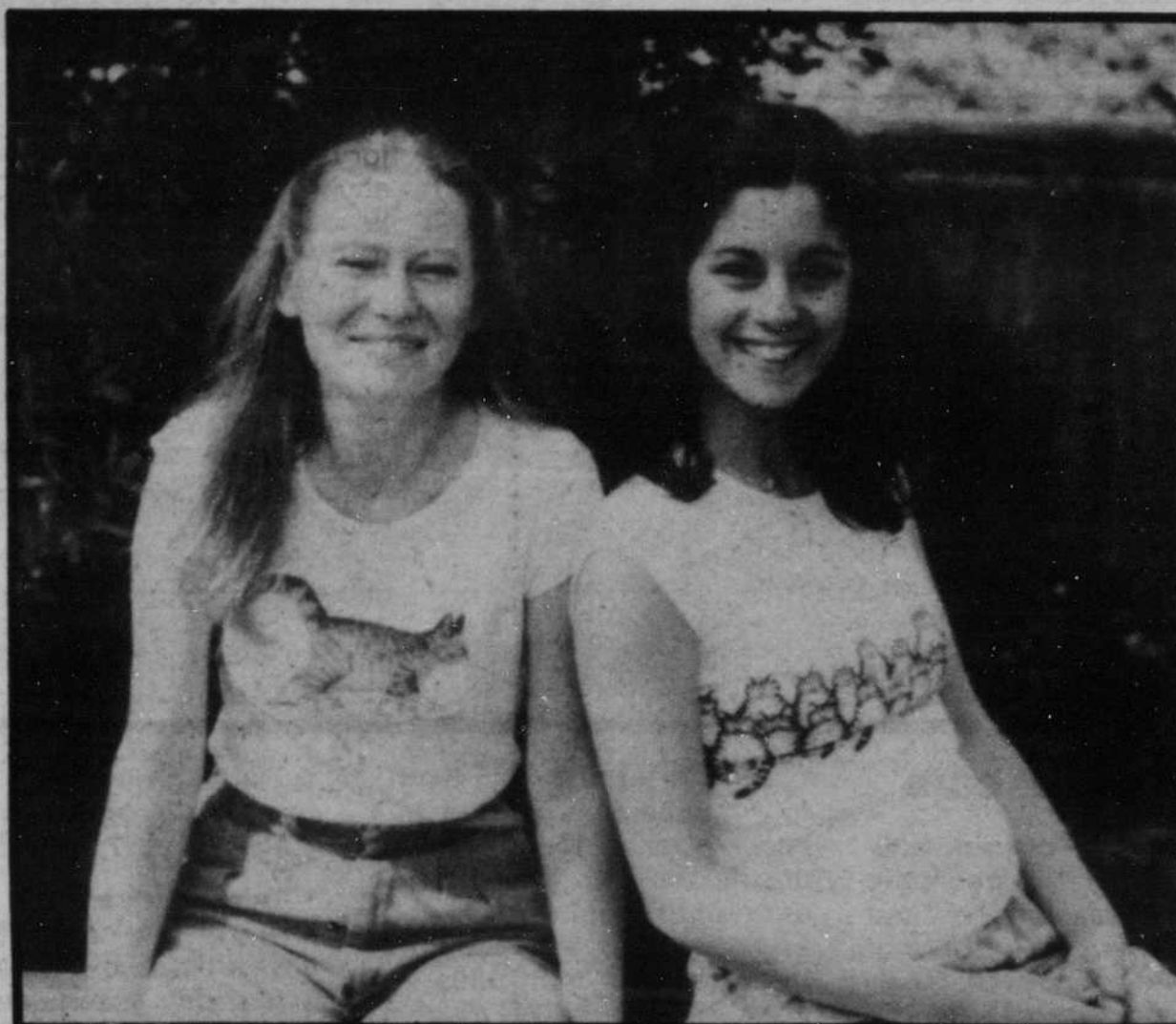
EMU FOOD SERVICE DELICATESSEN

OPEN 11-7 Mon-Fri 5-7:00 Sundays

Create your own sandwich;

the EMU Deli has the ingredients

meats - breads - cheese - salads



Don't Start Summer Without Kliban

T-shirts: various designs and sizes from children's on up to men's extra large. \$6.00 to \$10.00

Canvas Bags: with your favorite cat print. \$10.00

Cat Pillows: three different designs. \$10.00

Cat Notecards: 6 cat drawings to choose from. Available in a box at \$3.00 and cards sold separately at 50 cents.

Books: there are now four Kliban books including his newest, Tiny Footprints. \$2.95

Miniature Jigsaw Puzzles \$2.50

Upstairs in

THE TRADEBOOK DEPARTMENT

UO BOOKSTORE

13th & Kincaid 686-4331

Open: Mon-Fri 8:15-5:30 Sat 10:00-2:00