



glenn boettcher fire and rain

One of the biggest environmental stories in the country is a well-kept secret.

Acid rain is an international problem that is literally eating away at all of us and our world, but little news of this pollution-caused phenomena reaches the media.

Acid rain is created when sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide — two gaseous pollutants — react and combine with rainwater, says Conservation News, a magazine published by the National Wildlife Federation.

Ironically, the administration's efforts to reduce national dependence on petroleum products for power production may in the future be the single largest factor contributing to the already sizeable problem of acid precipitation.

Currently, the United States annually discharges 33 tons of sulfur and nitrogen into the atmosphere.

As a result, most of the rain that falls over the eastern United States is actually dilute sulfuric and nitric acid.

Among the biggest producers of this pollution are power

plants and steel mills east of the Mississippi.

Sulfur from industry — refineries, metal smelters and power plants — contributes 60 to 70 percent of the acidity. Most of the remaining nitrogen oxides are caused by auto emissions.

The effects of acid rain are numerous and varied. They include the loss of minerals in soil, reduction in crop and forest productivity, architectural damage and corrosion totaling nearly \$2 billion a year, and disruption of freshwater ecosystems, according to Conservation News.

Some acidity occurs naturally in rainwater due to organic decay, plant respiration and volcanic reactions. But this industrial acid has brought the acid level of isolated storms in northeastern parts of the country to that of lemon juice or vinegar.

Douglas Costle, Environmental Protection Agency director, announced in May new federal sulfur emission standards restricting new coal plants to half the current level. However, those rules do not apply to ex-

isting plants, and sulfur emissions are expected to increase by nearly 2 million tons during the next 15 years.

Federal officials have been slow to recognize the acid rain problem.

The President's Council on Environmental Quality has named acid rain one of two major regional environmental problems, and 28 states and the federal government have created a cooperative rainfall monitoring network.

But the problem is no longer just a regional one.

President Carter's July 15 energy message made it clear that oil consumption would be reduced mainly by switching to coal for power generation.

The effects of that directive are already being felt in Oregon.

Coal ash may soon be shot into Oregon's environment several times a year under an air-quality discharge permit being drafted by the state Department of Environmental Quality.

A coal-fired power plant scheduled to begin operation next summer at Boardman (in northeastern Oregon) would be

allowed heavy coal-ash emissions for short periods of time, but the total amount of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides would be restricted under the permit, says DEQ administrator Jack Weathersby.

The permit is being considered as a "trade-off," he

says.

During plant start-ups, coal-ash emissions could reach 2,300 pounds per hour — for as long as 10 hours — according to plant officials.

That's one "trade-off" that tips heavier in favor of acid rain.



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Lane County seeks CETA advisers

The Lane County Commissioners are looking for county residents interested in serving on the Youth Subcommittee of the Employment and Training Advisory Council.

The group provides a forum for community involvement regarding employment and training programs for youth, particularly those programs funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

One volunteer position is open in each of the following groups: Local Education Agency-Urban; Local Education Agency-Rural; Local Vocational Advisory Council; Post-Secondary Education; Business; Unions; State Employment Division; Local Government Juvenile Pro-

grams; Non-Government Youth Agency, and Youth At Large.

Also, two positions are open in the Youth-Rural subcommittee and in the Youth-Urban subcommittee.

Interested persons should submit an application to the Community Relations Division

no later than Tuesday, Oct. 23.

Applications should indicate the position(s) applied for. Application forms are available at the Information Center in Harris Hall and at the Community Relations Office, Public Service Building, 125 E. 8th Ave., Eugene.

The Oregon Daily Emerald

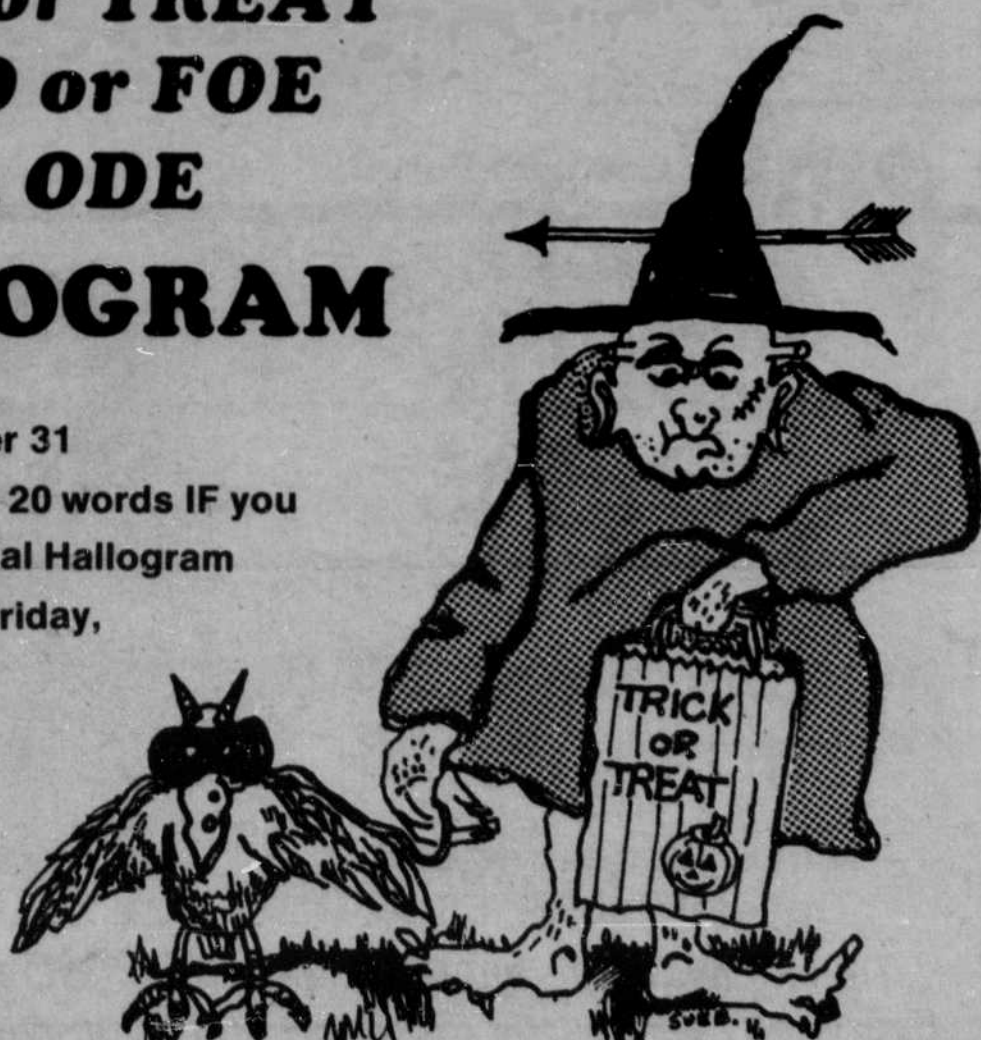
is now accepting applications for the position of Community Editor. The position is paid and requires 20-25 hours a week. The job includes some weekend and evening assignments. The community editor should have a background in journalism, although it is not necessary, and a knowledge of community affairs around Eugene and Lane County. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, Oct. 23, 1979 at 5 p.m.

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