

Herbicide moratorium pressures industry

Correlative evidence, relating the use of herbicides to an increasing rate of birth defects and illness in areas where herbicides are sprayed, can no longer be tabled for further study. A moratorium on all herbicide spraying is the only sensible way to prevent the needless human suffering that may result from direct or indirect exposure to several herbicides now being used in Oregon forests.

Several physicians from Lincoln County have supported the concept of a moratorium on all

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herbicide use and are accumulating support from public officials and private citizens. Opposition to their proposals is being spearheaded by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. These federal agencies claim that the data used by moratorium supporters is insufficient to prove the dangers of herbicide spraying, and that suspension of herbicide use will decrease Oregon timber harvests.

YOURS

A good man

The curious often ask me: "What's wrong with student government? Why don't more students take an active role in it?" A fair answer, I believe, is that student government often appears to be a laughing matter.

Fortunately, there's at least one IFC candidate in this term's elections who, in my opinion, will not become involved in the pseudo-political games and personality contests that have marked past committees. These games and contests are two of the leading contributors to student government's laughability.

The candidate of whom I'm speaking is Alan Contreras — a person I find easy to support. He represents change (at a time when change is sorely needed), competence and the ability to think in the future tense as well as the present.

If you're one of those persons who, like myself, insists on voting in ASUO elections, consider Mr. Contreras. I'm sure you'll find that he's a candidate whom you won't regret voting for.

Jess Barton
senior, CSPA

Energy swap

Caroline Petrich's coverage of the Community Energy Bank (10/4/79) is appreciated. For many persons, the specter of a disabled economy underscores the value and practicality of a skills exchange. The importance of barter lies not just in fuller control of our labors and increased availability of services for low income individuals, but in realistic avenues for community interaction and social change.

The Community Energy Bank will be a new idea to many of your readers. To present its full process and potential in the limited space afforded by the Emerald is difficult. Petrich did write a good article. There are, though, a few amendments I offer for clarity's sake.

First, I am not the "director" per se, nor is Nancy Schafer my "assistant". Rather, we share

Although spokespersons for these agencies are correct in claiming that no statistics have yet been generated that prove herbicide spraying is harmful, their conclusions as to who should bear the burden of proof seems to be out of focus.

One can prove that herbicides are either safe or dangerous by dosing a segment of Oregon's population with untested chemicals, but the results are potentially devastating. By taking this approach, private citizens and political action groups are forced to shoulder the burden of proof and may end up confirming the dangers of herbicide use by giving birth to deformed children.

Proving that herbicides will not threaten the health of Oregonians — whether they're working with the chemicals directly or contaminated indirectly as a result of living near forest areas — should be the responsibility of the chemical producers themselves. Federal agencies should also share the burden of proof with the producers, since their main function is to regulate industry and the products produced by it.

Federal agencies (such as the Environmental

Protection Agency) must evaluate both the medical and economic ramifications of herbicide spraying. While the doctors supporting the moratorium are lacking sufficient evidence, the Forest Service are in a similar bind: Their economic fears of a shrinking timber harvest are also based on insufficient studies. The unknowns must be identified and the discrepancies dealt with before a fixed policy can be established.

A moratorium would give federal authorities the time they need to thoroughly investigate herbicide spraying, and to evaluate the studies which have already been completed — without placing an all-out ban on herbicide use. A moratorium does not set a course of action that is irreversible. Unfortunately, the Forest Service cannot make similar claims.

If the Forest Service and BLM discover that their findings are incorrect and that herbicides can indeed be dangerous to public health, the resulting birth defects cannot be reversed. Oregonians will have to live with them — and so will their children.

voluntary supervision of CEB activities, complementing each others duties. Additional staffing is provided by other CEB members, again as volunteers.

Membership dues were accurately reported as \$4.50 per half year. Interested people who cannot afford this sum are invited to trade for membership. In this way we try to increase membership availability to the economically handicapped. (There are also working professionals in CEB who have joined, perhaps, not to save money so much as to support an economic alternative.) Availability is unfortunately limited by our building's lack of wheelchair access. Lastly, there is indeed an "unspeakable acts" category among the hundreds of skills offered by our 260 members. I do not know that

striptease or streaking is specifically offered within that category. But then, I don't know that they aren't.

One may call the Community Energy Bank at 485-8133 and the Springfield Skills Swap at 726-0555.

Michael Sussman, co-director
Community Energy Bank

Ticket pricing

This letter is in regard to an issue that some people feel has been underpublicized, while other people would like to see it swept under the rug.

A recent Emerald (10/5) credited ASUO Pres. Scott Bassett with the following remark, "What's happening is the Athletic Department is pricing students right out of Mac Court." Having personally at-

tended last spring's Incidental Fee Committee meetings on the ticket subsidy issue, I would like to disagree with that opinion.

First, the Athletic Department increase on ticket prices was for all tickets, both student and general public. So, I really doubt that the Athletic Department was picking on students by raising prices. Second, it is the IFC and not the Athletic Department that is pricing students right out of Mac Court.

During last spring's IFC hearings it was the committee's collective decision, with Bassett voting in the majority, to reduce the level of ticket subsidy funding from the previous year's 20 percent to 15 percent. This was done in spite of testimony that students would be priced out of Mac Court and that student seating could be reduced as a

result of too few buyers. If we are to believe statements made by the committee last spring, this year's ticket package could have cost around \$10 less than it currently does.

Bassett, in his statement, has chosen to ignore the impact of the committee on which he served on ticket prices. Instead he has chosen to point a guilty finger at a goat of his own choosing.

C'mon Scott, when are you going to stop passing the buck and take a little bit of the heat you deserve? If you weren't so wrapped up in playing junior politician, maybe we could hold down ticket prices. You can start by not accepting Athletic Department funded trips to East Lansing.

Paul Narits
graduate, computer science

theirs

