



Photo by Erich Boekelheide

Belushi would be proud

John Belushi probably doesn't know it, but he started something a few years back when he slurped down a plate full of Jello in one breath while filming *Animal House* at the University.

The University still hasn't forgotten that feat of gluttony, and yesterday a handful of students buried their faces in the wiggly stuff at the John Belushi Jello Eating Contest. Prizes

were awarded to the fastest slurper — but the real winner no doubt was the napkin concessionaire.

The event was sponsored by the Student University Relations Council as part of the Duck Week celebrations. Events will continue through the weekend, with parents of students invited to attend classes on Friday and tour the University Saturday and Sunday.

Lobbyist supports bills banning uranium mining

By LESLIE FARRIS
Of the Emerald

A bail-out of the nuclear power industry in the United States could mean a resumption of uranium mining in Oregon, said a legislative lobbyist Wednesday at the Oregon Desert Wilderness Forum.

But John Doyle, a lobbyist for the Oregon Mining Rights Coalition, is working for passage of two state bills that could prevent that resumption.

Because SB 505 requires mining companies to restore contaminated land after mining, it would "make it so expensive to handle radioactive wastes, it would essentially ban mining," Doyle said.

No one in Oregon makes a living by mining uranium, and no one is actively lobbying to increase uranium mining in the state, he said.

"But while the uranium industry is at a low point, that's the time to tie them up and keep them out of Oregon."

Oregon has four low-grade uranium deposits, Doyle said.

The uranium industry came to Oregon in the late 1950s near Lakeview in southern Oregon. Two mines over two years produced 171 tons of high-

grade uranium (yellow cake), leaving behind 130,000 tons of radioactive low-grade ore, called "tailings."

Doyle said the tailings were piled about 10 miles north of Lakeview and, until about five years ago, could be seen blowing through town during northerly winds.

Lakeview residents show the highest rate of pancreatic and breast cancer in Oregon, and they show abnormally high rates of leukemia and cancer of the lung, stomach and other organs, Doyle said.

"People were sure this would be the greatest economic boon since the gold boom," he said. "But just about the time the mine started rolling, it shut down."

Uranium, an essential ingredient of nuclear power and nuclear weapons, garnered a high price in the early 1950s. As many as 1,000 nuclear reactors were projected to be on line by the year 2,000, but since then, the demand for nuclear power has waned and so has the

demand for uranium, he said.

Although there were almost no economic effects, they did see some unexpected health effects."

Doyle said the first uranium miners in the United States — almost all Indians — suffered "incredible" rates of lung cancer.

Uranium mines and mill tailings ponds release large quantities of radioactive gas, Radon 222. This gas decays and attaches itself to dust particles which become permanently lodged in human lungs when inhaled.

Uranium particles are a potential cause of lung cancer. Holes drilled to locate uranium deposits, could contaminate ground water by releasing uranium into aquifers, Doyle said.

SB 505 will be voted on by the full Senate Friday or Monday, and SB 108 is in the Senate Energy Committee.

The Oregon Desert Forum will continue today in the EMU Forum Room.

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