

Discuss future strategy

Clean air supporters gather at symposium

By KIRK KNIGHTON
Of the Emerald

Ronald Reagan and James Watt might be the best thing that ever happened to the environmental movement, according to some of the charged-up people at Saturday's Clean Air Symposium.

The reason: the Reagan Administration wants to substantially weaken the Clean Air Act of 1977 — among other environmental legislation — and they're making so much ado about it that environmentalists all across the country are waking up from the complacency of the Carter years and arming themselves for battle.

The symposium — a day-long affair held in the EMU — drew a large number of people to discuss just what the administration intends to do to the Act, and what citizens can do to keep clean air laws intact.

The symposium featured workshops and speakers from diverse backgrounds and was sponsored by such organizations as the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the League of Women Voters of Oregon, the Oregon Lung Association, and several others.

John Bonine, co-director of the University's Environmental Law Clinic, provided background material concerning the Act as he explained why the administration wants to do away with much of it.

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"Let's face it," Bonine said, "the Clean Air Act started out as a fairly easy-to-read piece of legislation of about 40 pages. Since then it has grown to 150 pages, and the result is that it has become rather confusing, convoluted, and confounding."

Bonine said he agreed with some of the

legislators currently working to trim the Act that the law ought to be simplified. But the administration wants to simplify it by way of weakening it, he said.

Bonnie said he'd like to see it simplified in order to be more effective.

He pointed out that Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Anne Gorsuch — whom he referred to as a protege of James Watt — already has abolished the agency's enforcement division, and has fired one-third of the entire EPA staff.

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The administration would like to see the issue of clean air dealt with on a local level, Bonine said.

This would "force states to choose between clean air and a healthy economy," he said.

"What Reagan wants is to turn the clocks back to the 1950s, when there were no national standards for air quality, no enforcement of regulations, and no deadlines industries had to meet to clean up their act."

Dan Saltzman, environmental aid to Congressman Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said the administration is attempting to portray the Act as "yet another needless government regulation."

"The fact, though, is that the Clean Air Act is first and foremost a public health law — we cannot treat it lightly," Saltzman said.

He said that if Congress voted on the issue right now they would probably approve the proposed cuts in the Act.

"But the vote would be close," he added. "And this is why our strategy right now is to keep the thing from being voted on, until we've had more debates and committee meetings on the issue."

Saltzman urged people to write Wyden — the only Oregon representative on a subcommittee involved with the Clean Air Act.

Library celebrates golden anniversary

After confronting more than a routine share of shoestring budgets, reduced acquisitions and some hungry bookworms, University library officials could use some diversion.

The coming year may provide that diversion as the library celebrates its 100th anniversary. The golden anniversary festivities will coincide with the 75th anniversary of the Eugene Public Library.

In honor of the joint celebration, the public is invited to attend a revival of the University Library Lecture Forum Series, which thrived from 1949-1969. The year-long series of free lectures is sponsored by the University Library Centennial Project Committee, aided by a grant from the Oregon Committee for the Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

A lecture tonight by Richard Brown, professor of Northwest and Pacific History, will usher in the lecture series. Brown will speak on "Henry Villard and the University Library" at 7:30 p.m. in Gerlinger Lounge.

Henry Villard was a German immigrant, turned wealthy railroad magnate, who built the first railroad to link the Pacific Northwest with the rest of the United States.

Villard generously contributed the proceeds of his railroad bonds to several Northwest colleges, paying particular attention to the University in the late 1800s. In 1881, Villard's first gift was \$1,000 worth of books donated to start a library.

In early April, a reception introducing the library's new "Treasures Exhibit" will be held, followed later in the month by the celebration's centerpiece address by Alvin Josephy, currently with the Museum of the American Indian and former editor of American Heritage magazine. Josephy will speak on "Native Americans and White Settlers in the 19th Century."

For information about the Centennial celebration, contact the Centennial Project Committee Chairman, Perry Morrison, at the University library, 686-3056.

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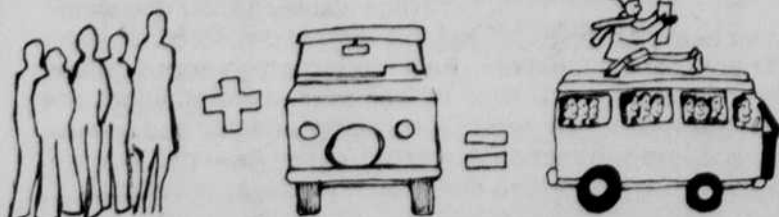
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