

Nuclear controversy mushrooms

Devastation of Eugene described

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Of the Emerald

Editor's note: The stories on this page report on the first day of the "The World Held Hostage" symposium held at the University.

Imagine a crater in the center of Eugene as large as the University campus and twice as deep as the new Hilton Hotel is high. Imagine shoppers at Valley River Center hit by a blast of air hot enough to incinerate all but 2 percent of them.

If that's hard to imagine it may be because the destruction wrought by a one-megaton nuclear device is inconceivable to you. But this would be the result of a one-megaton nuclear bomb detonated in Eugene, according to Mike McCaulley of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

One megaton is equal to the explosive power of one million tons of TNT or 50 times the blast at Hiroshima. Most contemporary nuclear devices are 50 megatons.

McCaulley spoke to an audience in the EMU Forum Tuesday about the effects of nuclear war. His talk was part of a nuclear symposium sponsored jointly by Students for a Nuclear-free Future, the Union for Concerned Scientists and the Citizens' Action for Lasting Security.

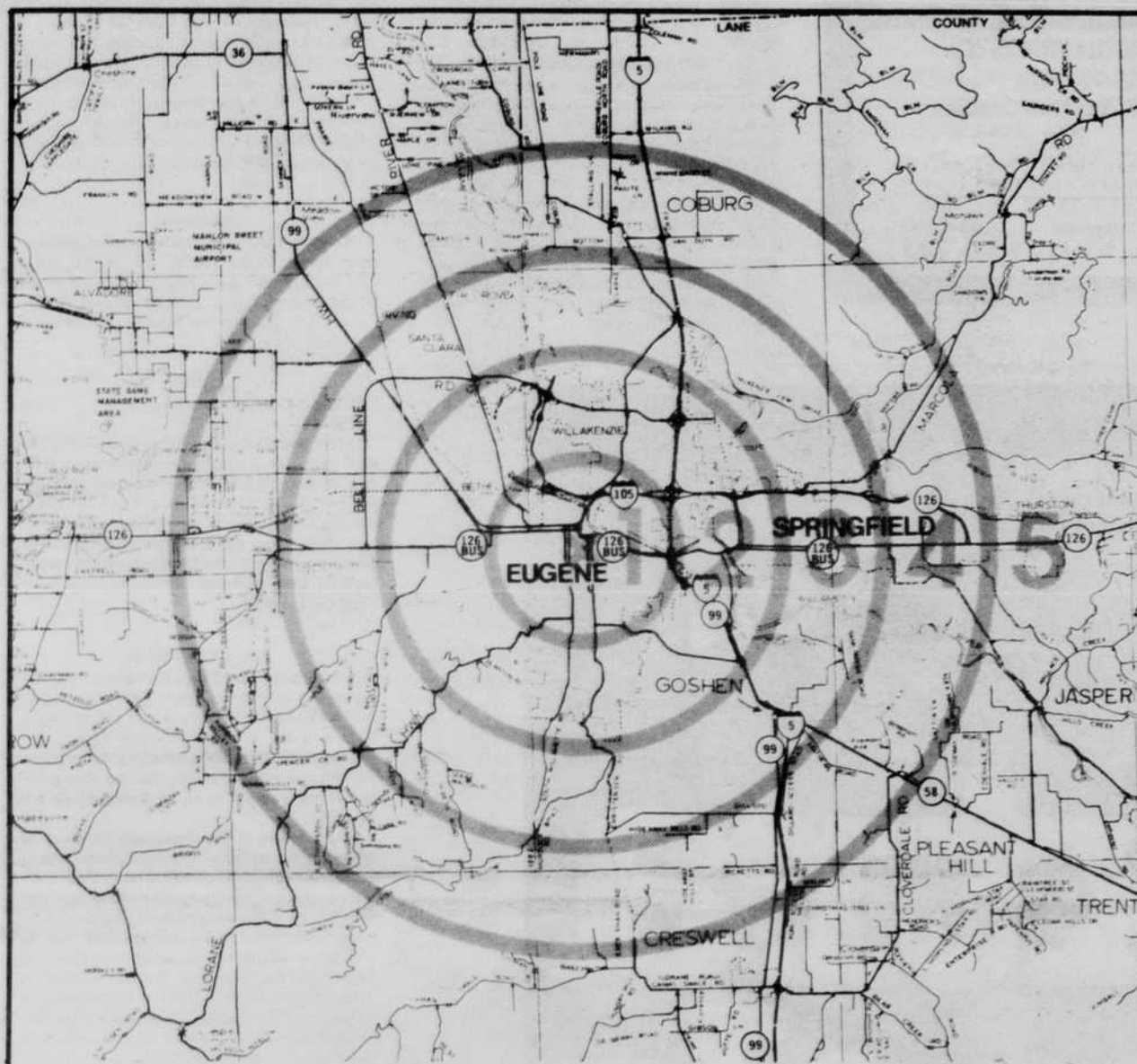
"Nuclear war is a reality even though the last incident was 36 years ago," McCaulley said. "We are programmed into a nuclear way of thinking."

Video games, energy issues and expressions like "to nuke" or "nuke the whales" all contribute to the programming, he said.

McCaulley also spoke about the effects of a one-megaton blast in a metropolitan area. Radiation fallout generally is assumed to be the most gruesome aspect of a nuclear attack, McCaulley said, but the reality is that the effects of the blast and the heat will predominate.

"A heated wall of compressed air will radiate out from ground zero (the initial point of impact). With winds up to 100 mph at 10 miles out, it will rupture lungs and eardrums at that distance."

The attack would be devastating as far as seven miles from ground zero, McCaulley said. Buildings,



If a bomb was dropped on Eugene...

The predicted effects — according to a report compiled by the Students for a Nuclear-Free Future — of a one-megaton bomb dropped from 6,000 feet to the center of Eugene within a 40-mile radius would be:

ZONE 1 — A 2.1-mile radius with winds up to 350 mph. This area would be devastated, three hospitals would be destroyed as well as the campuses of Northwest Christian College and the University. The city hall, court house and federal building would crumble. Ninety-eight percent of the people in this area would be killed in the first eight seconds.

ZONE 2 — A 4.2-mile radius with winds up to 100 mph. This area would see the destruction of 39 public schools and the collapse of the I-5 overpasses leading into the city. Seventy-eight percent of the people in this area would be killed within 14 seconds.

ZONE 3 — A 6.3-mile radius with winds up to 100 mph. Lane Community College would be destroyed as well as the town of Goshen. Springfield would be hit by the concussive blasts. Eighteen seconds after the blast, 50 percent of the people in this area would be killed.

hospitals and communication would be completely destroyed.

Fallout from radiation would spread according to wind patterns and weather, affecting an even larger portion of the population, McCaulley said.

"There would be no hospitals or medicines to treat the injured and adequate treatment for burn victims would be non-existent."

There are two ways to protect yourself, McCaulley said, "in fallout shelters or evacuation. Neither is adequate."

Fallout shelters would not be capable of sustaining inhabitants for the extended period of time that would be needed, "and if the government asked people to evacuate, I think few people would believe it," he said.

ZONE 4 — A 10.3-mile radius with winds up to 50 mph. The city of Coburg would be damaged. In the 23 seconds since the detonation, 5 percent of the people in this area would be killed and many more would suffer first- and second-degree burns.

ZONE 5 — People from as far away as 40 miles would be blinded by an eight-mile-high ball of fire more brilliant than the noon sun.

Radiation fall-out would occur; the path of the fall-out would be determined by weather and atmospheric conditions.

In this 10.3-mile radius — in less than two minutes — 50 percent of the people there would be killed instantly and hundreds of thousands more would be injured either critically or less severely.

Within this radius, buildings would crumble; communications from the area or into the area would be shut off completely. Four hospitals and many more clinics would be destroyed.

Figures on population and density are from a study by the University's geography department.

Congressman favors strong arms defense

While many people at the University will demonstrate for the end of nuclear arms at the symposium "The World Held Hostage," many people, among them lawmakers, advocate the opposite view.

Among those favoring nuclear arms is Rep. Denny Smith, R-Ore.

While Smith doesn't necessarily favor all forms of nuclear weaponry, he does favor a strong "national defense," says Glen Waldon, a spokesman for Smith.

Smith believes nuclear weapons should be a deterrent, Waldon says, and that the Soviets have many more weapons than the United States. Smith contends weapons have a psychological impact on other people, Waldon says.

The best way to fight that advantage is to have more weapons than the Soviets, says Waldon. "If somebody hits you and they know you can't strike back, they're more likely to hit you."

But Smith's belief is that the Soviets are living up to the SALT II agreement, even without anything binding them to it, Waldon says.

Although the congressman favors a strong national defense, he doesn't always agree with the Reagan Administration's decisions, Waldon says. Smith maintains too much money is spent on the defense budget when it could be put to better use. The proposed MX missile system causes Smith to wince although he is not opposed to the missile itself, Waldon says.

"The multiple base system is the most idiotic scheme I've ever heard of," Waldon says. "You can't even throw the cement at the enemy."

"The limit is that you never push 'the button' and you hope that the other side doesn't either."

Inside: Alcohol

Penalties are stiff for minors who attempt to buy alcohol with false identification and for the merchants who sell it to them. **Page 4A**

Jazz

Emerald Entertainment Editor Matt Meyer interviews jazz artist Pat Metheny backstage after his Portland concert Tuesday night. **Page 3B**

"How willing would the residents of Eugene and Medford be to shelter these millions of people (from Portland)? How willing would these people be to leave their homes?"

The two-day symposium, The World Held Hostage, continues today with a "die-in," a staged demonstration of the effects of a nuclear attack, at noon in the EMU lobby.