

Amazon residents' spray injunction valid

The spraying of the herbicide "Round-up" by the Eugene School District has residents at the Amazon housing complex angry and concerned. The concern expressed by the Amazon residents is justified.

Herbicide use by the school district has long been the subject of controversy. The school district's use of the herbicide 2,4-D had Eugene residents up in arms. Only last summer a parent filed a class-action suit against the district in an effort to stop the use of herbicides containing 2,4-D. The school district suspended spraying for the rest of the season after

continued harassment of weed-control crews.

The use of herbicides for weed control by the school district was hotly contested in board meetings and hearings throughout last summer. In the end the school board formulated a comprehensive weed-control policy. The use of 2,4-D was restricted in the policy. Instead of 2,4-D, the school district increased its use of the herbicide "Round-up".

"Round-up" (Glyphosate or N-Phosphon-Omethyglycine), according to a school district representative, is the safest herbicide they've found. It is used extensively as a lawn weed-killer. The

school district requires licensed applicators to apply the herbicide. The district also has criteria for spraying. They don't spray lawns, nor on or near playground areas.

The primary issue in the Amazon spraying incident is the application of "Round-up." The label cautions against spraying in winds gusting over five miles per hour. Apparently, the winds were from six to 10 miles per hour on the day of the spraying at South Eugene High School. The label also warns not to "feed or forage for eight weeks after application," and not to plant crops within a year of application. There are chemicals mixed with "Round-up" to prevent drifting. But Amazon residents believe the wind negated the anti-drift chemicals and caused chemical trespass. If "Round-up" blew over into the Amazon complex it would quarantine the yard and day-care areas from children for weeks and prevent crop-planting and gardens until the chemical dissipates.

But the health hazard to Amazon residents — young and old — is the major concern. Amazon tenants are currently considering an immediate injunction against future spraying in the area. In the wake of Monday's spraying six residents complained of nausea, diarrhea, headaches and throat irritation. Blood tests were taken and are being analyzed. The possibility of herbicide poisoning should be enough to cause the school district to halt future spraying until the results of the blood tests are known.

Amazon residents are also asking the school district to notify them in advance of spraying — or to change their method of herbicide application. But no law suit, as previously reported, will be lodged.

The Emerald supports the Amazon residents injunction against future spraying of the South Eugene High School running track with "Round-up." Amazon residents are reacting from legitimate concerns regarding their health and safety. When it comes to herbicide use can caution be over-estimated?



letters

Night crime

As you sit in class today, take a good look at the women in your classroom. One in three will be raped in her lifetime. By the time class is over, approximately 16 women will have been beaten in this country and 10 raped (FBI, 1981).

These acts of violence are not isolated social problems. Rape, domestic violence, pornography, incest and sexual harassment all function to maintain exclusive male power by keeping women afraid.

Women Take Back the Night is a group confronting and struggling to end all forms of violence against women. On Saturday, May 8, they are sponsoring a day of workshops at Harris Hall and a candlelight march and rally at night.

We recognize that there are men who are also horrified by sexual violence against women and we encourage their support on street corners during the march.

Sexual violence infringes on every woman's human right to independence. If you value your freedom, Eugene women, joins us on May 8 to take back the night.

Kay Kelly
Junior, fine arts

Mature publication

While I normally do not pay much attention to Emerald editorials, your "Forces for Life" platform (20 April) was an exception that has provoked this response.

What made this editorial different was its Neanderthal manner of making its point; it sank beneath even the Emerald's unusually low standards of journalistic ethics. In particular, I refer to your criticism of the Reagan administration's statements regarding nuclear policy.

Apparently you are incapable of realizing that your editorial opinions are not necessarily the only ones worthy of consideration. Labeling the administration's statements as lies and likening them to Nazi propaganda techniques smacks of self-righteousness born of ignorance and arrogance. While I would expect such behavior from small children, I was surprised to observe it coming from a supposedly mature publication.

To whoever wrote the editorial, I can only say that, should you be so foolish as to attempt a career in journalism, it would behoove you to remember that calling those of differing opinions liars and comparing them to Nazis seldom

impresses or persuades an adult audience.

It is unfortunate that the editorial was unsigned; I would prefer to address its author by name. But then again if I wrote it, I would've been ashamed to have signed it, too.

Todd Weber
Senior, Journalism

editor's note: the editorials are unsigned because they represent the views of the Oregon Daily Emerald and its editorial board. (C.F.)

Pill misinformation

Your article of March 12 entitled "Pill Offers Alternative" contains misinformation which should be corrected for your readers. It states that the pills (Calorex or Carbolite) have been "prescribed to overweight persons for approximately ten years" by dietitians. Members of the Lane County Dietetic Association, a group made up of the majority of registered dietitians in this area, have not prescribed such preparations at any time. In addition, the long term effects of these products has not been scientifically determined.

Emilie York, R.D.
Secretary, Lane County Dietetic Assoc.

Newspaper forum

The only thing skeptical about author Karl Grossman in Katherine Merrill's April 26 article is his ability for logical thought. He says when researching nuclear power "don't believe any source." Yet the whole article is made up of his quotes from nuclear power sources. Then he twists the quotes around until they're completely illogical. He says "... a nuclear power plant accident could result in 3400 deaths, ... killing everyone within 15 miles. ..." Does that assume 3400 people within 15 miles of the plant? What if no one is near the plant? Do 3400 people still die?

Then he uses his journalistic background to expound upon the finer points of nuclear engineering. It's really hard to study in the science library with all those journalism majors clamoring for more books on thermodynamics and materials science.

All this guy wants to do is sell books. If he has to twist some facts and pervert a few minds in the process, that's okay too. It's too bad this newspaper gives him a forum to do so.

Douglas Sheldon
GTF physics

staff

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during finals week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co.

News 686-5511
Advertising/Business 686-3712
Classifieds 686-4343
Production 686-4381

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