

Citizens argue fate of sludge

By Leslie Knight
Of the Emerald

The proposed Eugene-Springfield sludge management plan received further complaints of odors and possible groundwater contamination at a public hearing Monday.

Phase 1 of the plan calls for sludge to be stored temporarily at Short Mountain landfill during the winter and spread as fertilizer during the drier summer months. Once a permanent facility is constructed for the sludge it will be used as an agricultural resource year round.

Similar complaints about the project were lodged at a public hearing March 3. The Environmental Protection Agency called for Monday's meeting so the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission could explain what steps have been taken to deal with the complaints since March.

Alan Peroutka, an environmental engineer, said the permit issued the project by the Department of Environmental Quality requires compliance with county air pollution standards. He said

the sludge will compose one percent of deposits at the landfill and will not add significantly to the odor problem.

In regard to the possibility for groundwater contamination, Peroutka said experts in the field of hydrogeology are satisfied that this will not occur. "The underlying strata is adequate protection for the groundwater. The seepage would have to go through a very thick clay soil," Peroutka said.

However, many of the nearly 50 people at the meeting remained unconvinced. Connie Bugbee, of Creswell, said she was one of 92 people in her area to sign a petition complaining of odor from the site.

People expressed concern about heavy metals and toxins in the sludge that might contaminate water or infect people. Melva Barnes of Springfield quoted DEQ files that indicated unsafe levels of heavy metals exist in the sludge.

Several people supported implementation of Phase 1 to encourage economic growth in the area but urged the committee to be careful about en-

vironmental issues.

Judd Butner, of Springfield, said the whole question of storing sludge is unnecessary. He said he holds patents to equipment that dries sludge so it can be safely incinerated.

Steve Krugel, of Brown and Caldwell consulting firm, which helped draft the proposal, said Butner's idea will be looked at but is not a new innovation.

Burning the sludge "has not proven to be economically or environmentally sound for this area" Krugel said.

Testimony from the hearing will be given to the EPA who is expected to make a decision by mid-July whether the site merits a finding of no significant environmental impact. Ron Culver of the Portland EPA seems satisfied with what the MPMC has done so far. "They have done more than is necessary for the immediate future" he said.

A finding of significant impact could still be reached, however. "The EPA's policy is of sludge as a usable resource. Although we're already doing it in other places we feel we should stop once and answer all the questions."

Suspect arraigned on rape

Police arrested a 22-year-old male transient, who with another male transient, allegedly raped and sodomized a 25-year-old woman behind Gerlinger Hall between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. Tuesday morning, Sgt. Rick Allison said.

Brian Matthew Landry, who has no permanent address, was arraigned on a charge of

first-degree rape in Lane County District Court Wednesday. A preliminary hearing is set for July 6.

Landry is presently being held in the Lane County jail on a \$30,000 security bond.

Police said the woman met the men on Eugene's downtown mall and walked with them to the University

campus, where she was attacked between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m.

Police are searching for the other suspect, who was described as a black male in his early 20s, about 6-feet tall with a thin build, short Afro hairstyle, moustache and beard. He may be wearing a navy blue sweater.

Veterans lead protest march

Vietnam war veterans, disabled veterans, and relatives of soldiers killed in Vietnam will lead a national march on Washington, D.C., on Saturday to protest U.S. involvement in Latin America.

The participants and supporters say U.S. action in Latin America has many parallels to early U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

The protest will gather at 2:30 p.m. at the Vietnam veterans memorial. Led by the Veterans and Relatives Con-

tingent, protesters will march to the Shoreham Hotel, where a ball celebrating the Fourth of July will be taking place. Pres. Ronald Reagan, his Cabinet, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the leaders of Congress have been invited to this ball, which will be the center of the national demonstration.

A New York Times advertisement announcing the protest and denouncing U.S. involvement in Central America was signed by, among others, the Berrigan brothers, former

U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, Gloria Steinem, singers Harry Belafonte and Holly Near, lawyer William Kunstler, National Co-Chairman of the National Conference of Black Lawyers Haywood Burns, and the American Indian Movement.

Organizing centers from over 100 cities will send contingents to the march and protest.

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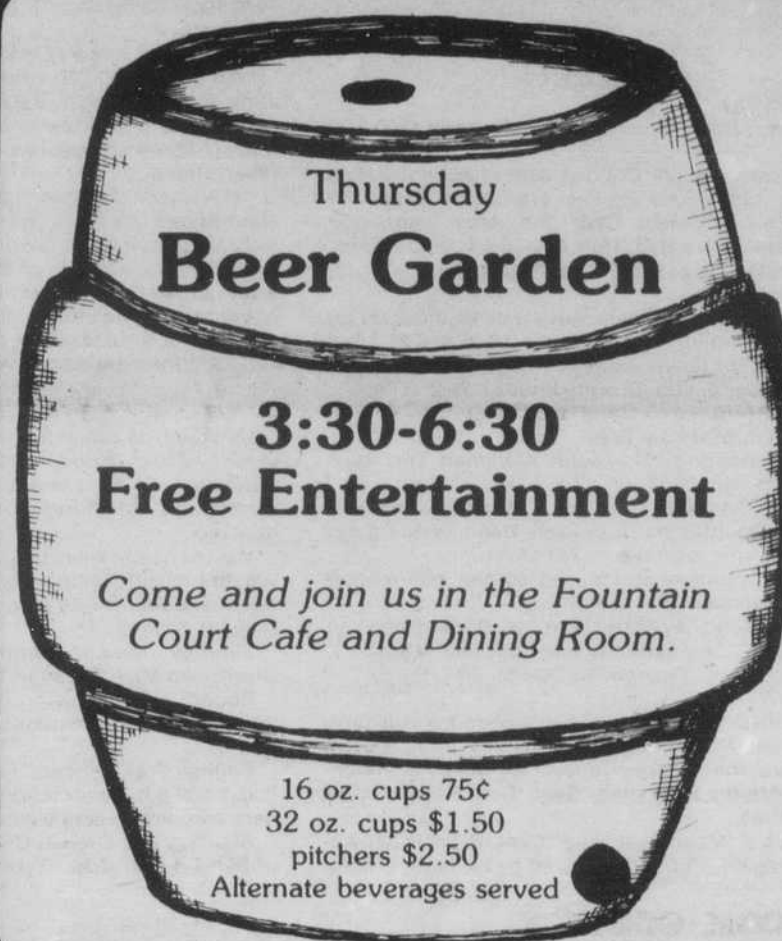
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