

Students protest herbicide use in controlling weeds on campus

By Paul Sturtz
Of the Emerald

Spending the day sitting under a campus tree may pose a health hazard after herbicides were sprayed around the base of as many as 200 trees on campus during spring break to control weeds.

The herbicide, which goes by the trade name of Roundup, may cause adverse health effects ranging from eye and skin irritation to cancer in the long-term, says Brett Fisher, director of the Survival Center.

The spraying went unnoticed until a half-



Photo by James Marks

A group of University students placed signs on trees in the Collier House area Monday to call attention to an herbicide sprayed around trees over spring break. The group says the herbicide poses a health hazard.

dozen students noticed rings of dead grass around trees Thursday and quickly put up posters saying: "Danger — Herbicides in Use. Please don't eat by, sit by or touch this tree."

But the posters were taken down by the University Physical Plant Friday morning before people could see the warning signs, Fisher says.

Fisher then called a press conference Monday to release research gathered by the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, a Eugene group.

The coalition claims the herbicide may cause genetic mutations and that it lingers on grass for a few weeks. Monsanto Corporation, the manufacturer of Roundup, refuses to release test data on the chemical.

"If Roundup is safe, what do they have to hide?" Fisher says. He says he knows the Physical Plant has a duty to maintain the campus landscape, but he believes there are less harmful ways of killing weeds in unmowable areas by using weedeaters or bark mulch.

Tim King, the Physical Plant's landscape maintenance supervisor, says only about 10 percent of the campus trees were sprayed, mostly around Susan Campbell Hall and Hendricks Hall.

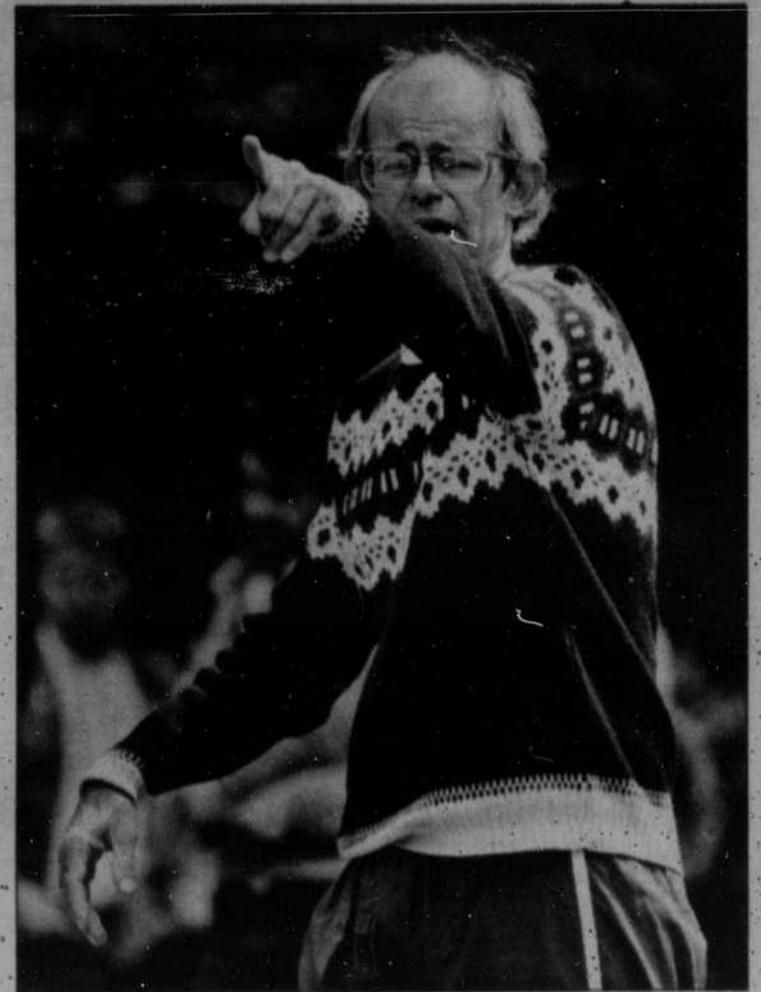
The herbicide should be looked at in relative terms, King says. "I'm not interested in the emotional side — I'm interested in the facts. We feel any good Roundup provides outweighs the problems."

Roundup's label indicates there is no danger, King says, and the Department of Agriculture and Oregon State University research confirms this.

"If there was any chance of endangering the public, we wouldn't be using it," King says.

He says any trace of Roundup should have been gone by the time school started.

King says the University will discontinue the spraying if he is presented with scientific evidence detailing the herbicide's harmful effects.



Encore performance

Comedian Stoney Burke returned to the University Monday armed with a bagful of taunts for Ronald Reagan, fraternities, the space shuttle, yuppies and other targets.

Burke, who lives in Berkeley but tours the country extensively, alternated ridiculing the crowd gathered in the EMU Courtyard with serious exhortations for students to get involved politically.

"The time has come to decide if (Attorney General) Ed Meese is going to break into your house or somebody you like," Burke said.

Burke outlined his vision of a world out of control, one filled with insane nuclear scientists, urinalysis testing at the University Bookstore and a Polyp Liberation Front that would get Reagan where the "assassins failed."

Later, Burke used a couple walking by to illustrate his contempt for a government out of control. "No holding hands in zone three," he called after the pair who tried to evade his glance.

Photo by James Marks

Construction to begin at marine institute

By Andrew LaMar
Of the Emerald

The University's marine institute, located eight miles south of Coos Bay in Charleston, will undergo renovation and the construction of new buildings to replace its outdated facilities starting this week.

An official ground-breaking

ceremony to mark the occasion will be held today on the Charleston campus and will include a speech by University President Paul Olum.

Currently, students use "very outdated" facilities, said Paul Rudy, director of the institute that was built primarily during the 1930s.

"Our old buildings are falling

down literally and are almost impossible to heat and keep clean," Rudy said. The buildings were last renovated in the 1950s.

"The floors (of classrooms) vibrate so much when people walk that it's hard to keep the microscopes in focus," he said.

Rudy said Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., helped get the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to completely fund the project. The NOAA allocated \$3.1 million for the project in fiscal year 1984 and \$650,000 for it in 1985.

"It was Senator Hatfield who was responsible for getting the funds," Olum said. "There's no question that it was Hatfield's project from the beginning."

Rudy said the renovation will increase the quality of learning

at the institute.

"The research will improve in both quantity and quality," Rudy said. "We're about doubling to tripling the size of the research space."

The first part of the project includes constructing four new buildings for classrooms, student dormitories, research laboratories and aquariums; constructing a building with

kitchen, dining and living facilities; updating utilities; moving a salmon stream; and landscaping.

This part of the project should be completed by September, Rudy said. The second part, which should be completed by June 1987, includes building faculty housing and graduate student dormitories and renovating existing structures, he said.

The construction is taking place on about 3 acres of the 107-acre campus.

The institute will be able to increase its student enrollment, which includes graduate and undergraduate students, from 150 to 240, Rudy said. Another researcher will be added to the faculty, bringing the total number of full-time researchers to three.

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