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Measure 14 casts shadow

remained at Trojan.
"Now the plant has 10 years of

Trojan closure worries residents of nearby town

The shutdown of the Trojan nuclear power plant near Rainier, Ore., would halt the state's only commercial power plant, but for local residents, the outcome could be devastating.

Ballot Measure 14. if passed, would shut down Trojan Dec. 4 until the federal government licenses a permanent, high-level radioactive waste repository.

In the town of 2,000, Ballot Measure 14 supporters say the shutdown is necessary to halt the buildup of spent fuel rods on the plant's site and avert the increased possibility of an accident occurring at the plant.

Opponents of the measure say revenue from taxes and from the operation of the plant is necessary to keep the town's public services operating. Many of Rainier's residents are employed at Trojan, and they see the closure of the plant as a ticket to

"I have no qualms about Trojan being there," said Walt Furer, a Prescott, Ore., resident of 66 years who opposes the continued operation of Trojan. Furer's home is adjacent to the plant boundaries and is the closest residence to the

The plant, which lies around a bend from his house, goes un-noticed except when the plant shuts down, sending billowing clowds of steam from the cooling tower, Furer said.

What upsets Furer is the fact that Portland General Electric representatives told Furer spent fuel wouldn't be stored at the plant more than two years when he sold the company 18 acres for the 635-acre site, he said.

the crap, and they are talking about another 15," Furer said. He believes it is inevitable that a mishap of some sort will happen — if not in his lifetime, then in the lifetime of his children. grandchildren or great

Furer also believes the measure

struction of the plant and EWEB's share of Trojan's operating costs.

If Trojan's property value were to drop, the tax burden would then shift to other property owners to make up the lost revenue. If Trojan were assessed at zero, the school tax rate would have to rise from \$10.40 to \$28.05 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to collect the present

'I can see (the measure) bankrupting the whole area. If that thing passes, you couldn't give a house away. It's frightening.' - Borgny Corbett

"People retired on fixed in-comes like us think, 'Good God, we can't afford the increase' " in electric costs that opponents of measure 14 say would occur as a result of the shutdown.

local residents feel as he does, but the plant's central role in the area's economy dictates their actions and their position on the

"We got along pretty good before Trojan, and we can do without it just as well.

September unemployment in Columbia County, where Trojan is located, ranked fourth highest in the state at 10.2 percent.

Trojan employs between 360 and 400 people at the plant yearround with a payroll of more than \$30 million, and another 850 are hired during the plant's annual refueling, which adds another \$10 million to the local economy. In addition, \$6 million in taxes are paid each year to governments and schools in Columbia County.

The Rainier School District presently receives the largest

- Walt Furer

'We got along pretty good before Trojan, and we can do without it just as well.'

has stored the spent fuel rods from the plant on site for 10 years will pay \$3.3 million in school and is licensed to store the fuel taxes. there until the year 2003.

In a recent interview, PGE spokesman Steve Sautter said PGE had a contract with an East

share of Trojan tax revenue. For the 1986-87 school year, Trojan

The Eugene Water and Electric Board, by permanently assigning its 30 percent of the plant output to the Bonneville Power Ad-Coast company to reprocess the ministration, pays the district plant's spent fuel, but President \$1.762 million in lieu of taxes Jimmy Carter banned reprocess-ing in 1977, and the spent fuel has bonded indebtedness for con-

After this long (of operation) and seeing and knowing people who work there, I suppose I've been converted," Corbett said.

Similarly, the Rainier Chamber

amount of taxes, said Janice Welter, director of fiscal services. for the Rainier school district.

There would be no way to make up the revenue paid by EWEB, which could be "devastating as far as the school district tax valuation goes," Welter said.

The school district, determined to inform the public of the effect of Measure 14, passed a resolution against its passage Oct. 6, said Annetta Hamlik, Rainier School Board chairperson.

Hamlik, who voted against the resolution, said the measure is a touchy issue with few proponents and many opponents. Ultimately, voters should make up their own minds instead of following the recommendations of others, she

The Rainier City Council unanimous resolution against unanimously passed a similar resolution Oct. 6 against the passage of Measure 14, said city council member Borgny Corbett.

"I can see (the measure) bankrupting the whole area. If that thing passes, you couldn't give a house away. It's frightening," Corbett said. The shutdown would have a very depressing effect on the area if Trojan reduced its permanent, full-time person-

Corbett, who was on the city council when the plant was constructed, said she initially was opposed to having a nuclear power plant built within four miles of Rainier, but is now satisfied with the operation of the plant.

of Commerce Oct. 7 passed a

Measure 14 identical to the city "Our official position is pro-

Ballot Measure 14, which would shut down the Trojan nuclear

power plant, has ignited a battle between supporters, who say they

hope to avert an impending nuclear accident, and opponents, many of whom depend on Trojan for jobs and local services.

position 14 does nothing but shut down Trojan," said Steve Peterson, president of the Rainier Chamber of Commerce and local attorney. If the measure passes, Peterson said he might as well sell his house and set up practice in another city because of its financial impact on the town.

The Rainier Rural Fire Protection District receives \$357,000 of its funding from Trojan, which amounts to 63 percent of its total budget. It too has gone on the record as opposing measure 14.

council resolution.

"People don't live in the fear of Trojan," said Vince Donner, RRFPD division chief. Instead, "they are more concerned with Weyerhaeuser logging trucks" that race through Highway 30, which runs through the middle of

Through PGE, the fire district is

able to train officers and attend schools in case of a nuclear fire. said Ray McKee, a RRFPD board member. PGE assists the fire department in many ways, including funding the majority of a bond issue used to construct two rural fire stations in nearby Fern Hill and Goble, he said.

"I'll probably lose some friends" as a result of his position on measure 14, Furer said. But he hopes the action will send a clear signal to the federal government to speed up the process of finding a nuclear repository site.

By Stan Nelson

Stan Nelson currently is the Oregon Daily Emerald's University Affairs reporter. He grew up in Rainier, near the Trojan plant, and graduated from Rainier Union High School.

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Continued from Page 5

bout six weeks.

V.J. Balan, a graduate student studying biology, had three rab-bits stolen in Sunday's break-in; nowever, he does not think that his work will be hindered by the oss of the animals, he said.

"A week ago, I had collected blood that would last me for a while," Balan said.

Balan is studying the antibodies from a certain fly pro-tein in rabbits. The research that he has spent about one year on was almost at an end when the rabbits were stolen.

"There are a lot of graduate students who have spent about three or four years on research work that has now just gone down the tube," Balan said.

Research work may be temporarily halted as a result of Sunday's break-in, but he said it will not end.

"The fact is that this sort of terrorism will not stop research work," Balan said. "Research work on animals is necessary.'

By-pass surgery first had been tested on animals before it was done on humans, Balan said. Also, animals are used in research concerning certain allergy medicines and aspirin.

"If it is not done on animals. or if animals could not be used. testing would have to be done on humans," he said.



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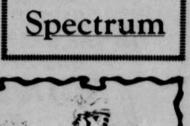
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