

Bill proposed to provide year-round jobs for youths

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

A state-run jobs program that would put Oregon's youth to work on environmental projects has been proposed in the Oregon Legislature.

Sponsors of the program say it would build on Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's proposal for a statewide, youth summer-jobs program by providing year-round employment.

The Youth Conservation Corps program would cost

about \$6 million and would employ Oregon residents ages 17 to 23 to assist in brush control, reforestation and campground development, said Rep. Judith Bauman, D-Portland, the chief sponsor of the bill that would create the program.

"This program is an investment in Oregon's future," Bauman said. "It is impossible to attach a dollar amount to the character-building experience of hard work."

The YCC will be headed by a director appointed by the governor, with a nine-member advisory committee appointed by the House, Senate and governor.

A training academy will be established to provide technical assistance and leadership training, Bauman said. The YCC will target educationally, physically and emotionally disadvantaged youth, and youth with financial obligations for recruitment.

Employees will be paid minimum wage and charged for

room and board.

Goldschmidt said youth jobs programs "provide an enormous opportunity to match the needs and potential of young people with the needs and potential of the state."

The YCC will be similar to the Great Depression Era's Civilian Conservation Corps developed by President Franklin Roosevelt.

Goldschmidt lauded the old CCC. "The original mission was to find good jobs for folks, but the legacy they left us is much bigger than that," he said.

The CCC was responsible for much of the reforestation work that replaced Oregon forest land destroyed by the "Tillamook Burn" fire.

The YCC will cost \$11,000 a

year for each person employed, said Rep. Wayne Fawbush, D-Hood River. But he said the program would be a bargain if it is compared with the \$39,600 a year cost when a disadvantaged youth gets into trouble and winds up a ward of the state.

"You're not going to take these kids at risk and give them a work ethic for free," Fawbush said.

Sponsors of the bill are actively looking for funding to start the YCC within the next two years, Fawbush said. A new tax or fee is being considered, but Fawbush would not say where that tax or fee would be placed.

A minimum of \$2 million would be required to get the YCC off the ground this biennium, he said.

Symposium focuses on male identities

By Sandra J. Burr
Of the Emerald

Douglas MacArthur, Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger wield power in our society. From MacArthur's military might to Schwarzenegger's barbell brawn, these men have been role models for masculinity. They are the virtuosos males — strong of sword and strong of body — and therefore "all that men should be."

But counseling psychology Professor Emeritus Martin Acker strongly rejects this one-dimensional perception of masculinity. He has chosen "Men and Power" to be the theme of the Third Annual Northwest Men and Masculinity Symposium in order to challenge the traditional idea that real male identities lie solely in their biceps.

The three-day conference, to run March 6-8 on campus, explores how men can utilize power in the world, in relationships and inside themselves without resorting to stereotypical behavior.

"The generally accepted definition of power is physical aggression," Acker said. "The purpose of this symposium is to illuminate alternative perceptions of power, different ways men can experience power; in other words, in ways that are benign, creative, nurturing."

According to Acker, the male caricature society endorses precludes men's capacity to feel. "A traditional stereotype of masculinity is that men are strong, powerful, unfeeling and inured to pain," he said. "Men don't experience a range of feelings or experience dependence. The classical example is sports figures, like the football player with a broken leg

not letting the pain bother him. That's real masculinity."

Acker believes men suffer mental deprivation because they are tied into this perspective. Hence, they become puppets whose strings are jerked by the expectations of a macho society. Men like John Wayne are idolized, and scores of boys grow up internalizing their roughhouse behavior because it is socially acceptable and infinitely desirable.

"But you can't be John Wayne 24 hours a day," Acker asserted. "Perhaps 1 percent of the time that's appropriate behavior. The other 99 percent of the time, that behavior is dysfunctional."

The symposium will address how men can sidestep this traditional aggressive conduct and embrace a more sensitive approach to power in a series of lectures, workshops and panel discussions. Keynote speakers include Ken Druck, author of "Secrets Men Keep," and Mark Gerzon, author of "A Choice of Heroes: The Changing Faces of American Manhood."

The panels will encompass a variety of perspectives as men from the worlds of business, politics, religion, law enforcement and education discuss what it means to be masculine as a professional and as an individual.

"I reject the idea that gender is predominant in my business life," said panel member Lane County Commissioner Jerry Rust. "I don't feel bound by gender at all."

But Rust is the first to admit that he is free from stereotypical behavior at home. "I make mistakes I might have accused my father of making," he said. "Maybe it's the survival mechanism when I find myself

overly protective of space or my children."

Springfield Police Chief Robert Deu Pree focuses on the role of power in the male-dominated area of law enforcement. "It is a problem to get the police out of the macho image, or what we call the 'heavy-badge' image; in other words, the male role where the male controls everything," he said.

Deu Pree said future training for police officers will go from "handcuffing I and lock 'em up II to the sociology and psychology of crime and large group mentalities" in order to defuse the strong-arm approach to law and to encourage the use of mental persuasion.

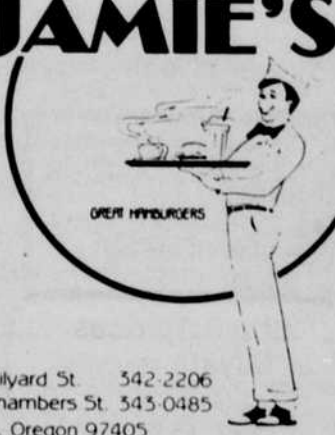
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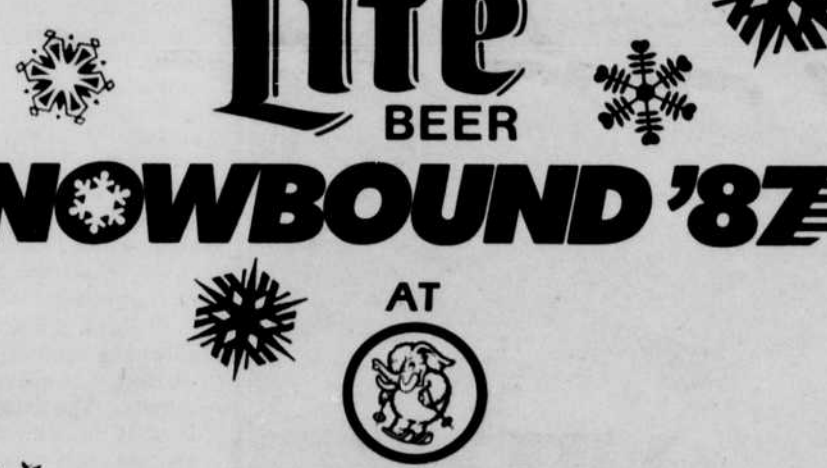
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