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## Environmental movements noted for strengths and weaknesses

By Sarah Kitchen  
Of the Emerald

Panelists gave their answers to the question "Environmental Movement: Alive and Well in Oregon?" Monday night at a forum sponsored by the Survival Center.

About 40 people attended the forum, part of the Earth Week celebrations at the University.

State Senator Bill Bradbury said he believes the question has several answers, depending on which perspective is examined.

One perspective is the issue of toxic, hazardous or radioactive wastes, in which case Bradbury said the environmental movement is alive.

"The State of Oregon is a national leader in enacting legislation relating to spill response and in relation to leaking underground storage tanks," he said.

Oregon is in the process of enacting a superfund bill to clean up toxic waste sites. The state also has enacted community and worker right-to-know legislation about hazardous materials, Bradbury said.

However, when exploring the question in relation to Oregon's basic industries such as the wood products industry, the environmental movement is not

alive and well, he said.

The Board of Forestry just has adopted new rules relating to protection of repairing zones in Oregon's forests. "The rules that were adopted, based on the Department of Forestry's own study of the issue, showed that at least 80 percent of the current operations in the forest meet those rules today, so these are not really tough rules, but if you listen to the timber industry you would believe they were the worst thing that had ever happened," Bradbury said.

"The movement needs an energizing force; short of that, at least it needs a lot of steady volunteers and a lot of steady organizing at the local and national level," said County Commissioner Jerry Rust.

One problem is that Oregonians want the question of the environment "both ways," Rust said.

"On Trojan, the reality is that nobody wants the waste in their back yard, but the fact is that the good people of Oregon voted to keep on producing it last fall," Rust said.

To decommission Trojan is "the highest ground," Rust said. After the plant is decommissioned, then Oregon can argue with the rest of the country that it has taken the steps to

decommission and does not want a nuclear power station in the next state, he added.

While environmentalists and environmental movements have "come of age in the past 20 years," there are so many splinter organizations with different viewpoints that they seem to be in competition with each other, observed Cynthia Wooten, from the Eugene City Council.

One way of combatting this is for the different groups to better communicate with each other, Wooten suggested. At the same time, citizens should continue to demand that their visibility remain clear to decision makers, she said.

Mary O'Brian, from the North West Coalition of Alternatives to pesticides, said environmental movements should "be the government, rather than submit to the government."

"We (environmentalists) all play the same role in this society, and that is to challenge the society to care for life and to share the earth with other organisms, to recognize our connection with life, and to take the responsibility for the consequences of too many people and too much consumption," O'Brian said.

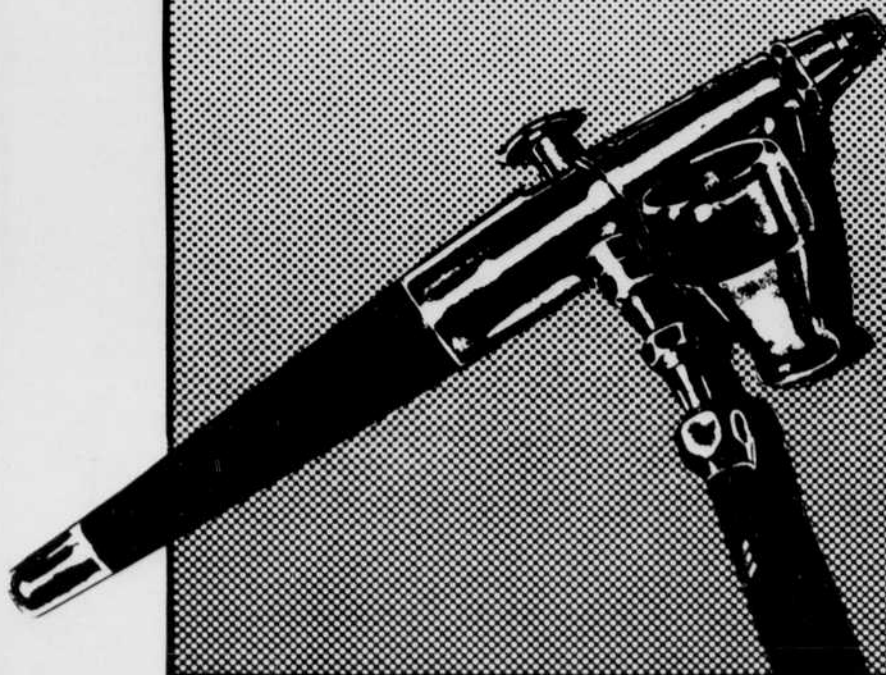
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