

## Place watchful eye on Public Works

The Lane County Board of Commissioners unanimously decided to lift a four-year ban on roadside pesticide spraying last Wednesday. The board hailed this decision as a compromise between the Lane County Public Works Department and environmentalists. Yet the compromise appears one-sided.

Lane County Public Works crews once again have the green light to use pesticides along county roads, and although restrictions have been levied on where the road crews can use these pesticides, the board has opened another chapter to this controversial issue.

The lifted ban satisfies Public Works people, who have complained the ban had hampered their efforts to control roadside weeds. But the use of herbicides now is prohibited near schools, bus stops, in standing water and along the backs of roadside ditches, which appeases some environmentalists.

The board has agreed to implement an "integrated pest management" program, which allows the use of both chemical and mechanical methods as a means to eliminate roadside weeds.

No one argues that roadside weeds, if left uncontrolled, damage highways. But the Public Works' commitment to use the mechanical aspect of integrated pest management must be questioned.

Public Works may treat the relaxed ban as an impetus to make up for lost time and spray where spraying is not really needed.

Moreover, the tone of Wednesday's public hearing could have given Public Works the impression spraying is preferable to mechanical weed control. For example, Commissioner Bill Rogers displayed his pro-pesticide bias when he refused to accept written testimony from pesticide opponents. He claimed those who wished to testify against spraying had to appear before the board in person. But because the hearing was held at 1:30 on a Wednesday afternoon, many people opposed to spraying could not attend the proceeding. Although many had submitted their objections in writing, their opinions went unheard.

Furthermore, pesticide opponents received unequal time to present their case. The board granted Public Works Director John Goodson an hour to present his argument for roadside spraying.

Allied with an Oregon State University toxicologist and a roadside vegetation manager from Washington's transportation department, the board listened patiently to their case. However, pesticide opponents only received about a half hour to state their side of the issue.

Similarly, pro-pesticide bias was evident when Cleve Dumdi, husband of Commissioner Ellie Dumdi, submitted testimony supporting roadside spraying. And it's disturbing to note Commissioner Dumdi, who also supports roadside spraying, received campaign contributions from Lane County Public Works during last November's elections.

Furthermore, pro-pesticide sentiment is ingrained within the ranks of the Public Works Department. Steve Puett, a Public Works employee, was pictured in Dow Chemical promotional literature in 1983.

Now that the pesticide ban has been lifted, careful supervision will be needed to ensure spraying is used only as a last resort and that more environmentally sound practices take first priority.

SMELLEY  
GRET SANDROUNICH  
COPPER NEWS SERVICE



## Letters

### Parenthood

Some elements in our "modern" society try to devalue the importance of the family unit. That's too bad, because if strong American families become the exception - rather than the rule - America cannot preserve itself as a culture or a nation for very long.

Young men and women are told their highest priority and goal in life lies in attaining a "glamorous" or high-paying occupation while the idea of bringing up a family is, at best, presented as secondary in importance to monetary success.

Certain types of accomplishments receive much glorification today while the importance of parenthood is ignored, or even significantly downplayed. That's rather odd, since our nation could endure without many of its glamorous occupations, but it certainly couldn't continue without motherhood and fatherhood. So which task is really most important overall?

Parents are responsible for cultivating desirable values and behavior in future generations.

What other accomplishments can substitute for success in creating, nurturing, and providing the direction for the citizens who will inherit this country?

Just remember - no amount of military hardware or financial power will preserve this nation in the long run if youth accept a philosophy that parenthood isn't such a meaningful or worthwhile goal. The foundations of all great nations, including our own, rest on preservation of the family.

Let's give parenthood the respect it truly deserves.

Teresa McNew  
Elmira, Oregon

Mike Egan quotes Smoker Chairman Marc Arendt, "damage the brawl caused reduced this year's donation (or allocation for donation?). The real people who lost were the fighters who really wanted to fight and the fans who came to see their friends." The article talked to other fighters but they were angry they didn't get to fight, not about the brawl.

Do the Greeks really care about the charities?

The funny thing about the Smoker was that when the fight broke out, the people in the ring became the audience.

Blake Louis Sliter  
Political science, English

### Smoked out

The Greek system, in the process of doing some charity work, was drinking and rabble-raising. The Phi Psi "Smoker." That fine charitable endeavor that raises money by having frat members beat on each other.

The Smoker was stopped due to too much boxing or brawling. People were beating on each other, and they weren't doing it for charity. Some have even hinted at possible racial reasons. Only rumor, I would point out that never in the history of the Greek system has racism been an issue.

I didn't hear of it in the Emerald or the Register-Guard, but from NEWSGREEK and witnesses. Cover-up? Greeks are always covering up their indiscretions.

Why didn't the Emerald print this story?

They don't have the stones to print the truth about the Greeks and their pitiful organization. (Maybe payments?)

Why were the boxers, fund raisers, and people in attendance more interested in fighting and getting their money's worth than raising money for charity?

### Wildlife

It is rare indeed when one or two citizens can actually make their voices heard among the labyrinthian machinations of our federal government. One of those rare opportunities is here now.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is soliciting public input as to what they should do with, and how they should manage literally billions of acres of wildlands in this state.

Such spectacular and important areas as Oregon Sand Dunes, the Steens Mountains, Alvord Desert, Owyhee Canyonslands and Sheephead Mountains are being scrutinized: In all, 2.6 BILLION ACRES.

Only 28 people in the entire state commented in the original public comment period!

I am sure many people who read this have visited some of these areas, or certainly have driven through them and been impressed with their beauty. If it's important to you that these places stay wild, write to: the Wilderness Studies, BLM, or your congressman.

Steven Albert  
Graduate, Biology  
Survival Center

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