

Inside:

- Writing with Kesey, Page 5
- Touring Eugene, Page 11
- Sky pilot, Page 12

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Conservationists file suit over spotted owl habitats

By Andrew LaMar
Emerald Reporter

Twelve conservation groups filed a lawsuit Monday afternoon against the Bureau of Land Management to stop the cutting of old-growth timber in Oregon.

The lawsuit's primary concern is the protection of the northern spotted owl, according to plaintiff representatives who held a press conference Tuesday morning.

The BLM is a subdivision of the Department of the Interior, headed by Donald Hodel. BLM officials were not available for comment Tuesday.

The lawsuit was filed in Portland in U.S. District Court.

Wendell Wood, the educational programs coordinator for the Oregon Natural Resources Council, said conservationists "seek to require the Bureau of Land Management to prepare a full environmental impact statement to disclose the adverse economic and environmental effects of old-growth cutting in the BLM's 289 identified spotted owl management areas."

Between 1979 and 1983 the BLM drafted a 10-year plan for each of its seven western Oregon districts. Included in the plan were environmental impact statements that warned the logging of old-growth forest would decrease the number of spotted owls in the area.

Since then, several organizations have studied the spotted owl and published new information about their habitat. Last February the BLM state director reviewed the studies and issued

a document assessing the new information, but it did not discuss much of the new information, according to the lawsuit's plaintiffs.

In April, the BLM state director issued a notice stating the BLM did not find the new information on the spotted owl significant, and it would continue logging old-growth timber at the current rate.

"The BLM's documents indicate that if the present level of old-growth logging continues, in only four more years we will have precluded any existing options for survival of the species," Wood said. The BLM currently controls 412,000 acres of old-growth forest and cuts it at an average of 15,000 acres a year, he added.

Since April, the plaintiffs twice have requested the Interior Board of Land Appeals halt sales of old-growth timber within 2.1 miles of any of the owls' habitats to preserve the species. The board rejected both requests, saying the plaintiffs failed to show cutting the old-growth would result in irreparable injury.

The 12 groups filing the suit are the Central Oregon Audubon Society, Headwaters, the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, the Lane County Audubon Society, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Oregon Natural Resources Council, the Portland Audubon Society, the Salem Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the Siskiyou Audubon Society, The Wilderness Society, and the Umpqua Valley Audubon Society.

Experts judge University

By Mike Drummond
Emerald Associate Editor

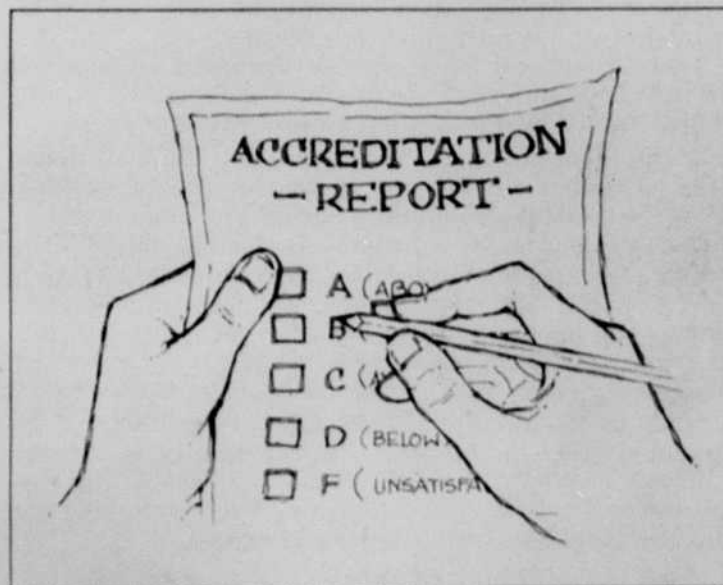
One of the givens of college life mandates that students receive evaluations for academic performance; the University is no exception.

Every 10 years the University opens its departmental doors to outside scrutiny through an accreditation review, inviting a handful of regional educators and administrators to appraise the institution's virtues and foibles.

Early last spring 13 representatives from the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges paid a three-day visit to this campus and evaluated the University's strengths and weaknesses. Members of this year's review team included the president of Montana State University, a graduate school dean from the University of Utah and Stanford University's dean of student affairs, among others.

When last accredited in 1977, the University faced deep budget cuts. To adjust to this situation, the 1977 evaluation team recommended the campus consider "selective program reductions or outright eliminations" of some courses.

In addition, it cited problems with the "mission" and "coherence" of the School of Community Service and Public Affairs, and described the academic advising and registration procedures as "uneven and



Graphic by Lorraine Rath

generally less than satisfactory."

The 1987 accreditation review found that over the last decade the University made strides in the two former areas; however, the latter recommendations have received low priority.

For example, in the early 1980s the University, bending under the weight of state-mandated budget restraints, cut several superfluous programs and closed the School of Community Service and Public Affairs and the School of Librarianship.

In contrast, however, academic advising and registration procedures have changed little since the last accreditation report.

The 1987 evaluation team again noted the University's

advising and registration shortcomings, along with a host of other areas needing improvement. But it also praised certain aspects of the University.

Concerning the University's faults, common themes found throughout the 1987 evaluation report cited a lack of access for the mobility-impaired, chronic "space crisis" in several departments, particularly the library, and an excess reliance on Graduate Teaching Fellows for course instruction.

Alison Baker, executive assistant to University President Paul Olum, discussed these and other findings of the report in a recent interview.

Turn to Review, Page 3

University organizations wage battle for AIDS education

By Kelvin Wee
Emerald Reporter

The issue of AIDS prevention has been the focus of many educational campaigns at the University.

In the last year, the University has witnessed the birth of the University's AIDS Task Force, the University's

Educational AIDS Task Force, and the inclusion of the disease into the curriculum of many community education classes.

According to Dr. James Jackson, director of the University's Student Health Center, there are many ways students can get information and education on AIDS. However, few students are using these services.

He said although AIDS education on campus has helped increase student consciousness about the disease, many students still don't take it as seriously as they should.

"I think that students need to realize that AIDS is everyone's problem, and not just for those in the high-risk groups," he said. "I don't think the message has really sunk in yet and unfortunately, it may take a tragedy of someone close before students realize that it is a problem."

Jackson believes the issue isn't that the University cannot provide the information on AIDS, but that students have not been sincerely receptive to the education.

He said the health center is always on the lookout for good brochures on AIDS and safe sex because these are the most helpful, non-threatening ways to get in-

formation across.

"Students can pick these brochures up at the health center and read them in the privacy of their homes or rooms without anyone knowing," he said.

The health center also offers several programs that are available to students looking for more in-depth information about the disease.

These students can visit the Health Education Resource Room staffed by peer health student advisers or see health care providers at the center who can give information on AIDS, Jackson said.

He added the positive side of AIDS education at the University is more students are becoming active in education, and he believes student government should be commended for its work on the issue.

Tim Regan, ASUO University Affairs coordinator, said although students have been receptive to information, their response to the issue has been slow.

He explained the success of the Condom Awareness Day sponsored by the Peer Health Advisors last year was one way to judge how receptive students were to the illness and how it affected their lives.

"Many people just took the condoms



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and flyers we handed out, but very few actually stopped to ask us questions," he said. "But I feel that it's a start that they are beginning to take the information with them."

Regan, who is the University's Educational AIDS Task Force chairman, said many students avoid attending public lectures on AIDS because they fear being

Turn to Aids, Page 4



Laurene Shields