

# Former U.S. Senator urges opposition to Arctic oil interests

By Bryan Houston  
Emerald Contributor

Conservation, not exploitation of wilderness areas is the answer to America's energy problems, according to former Gov. and Sen. Gaylord Nelson.

Nelson, a full-time counselor and public speaker for the environmental group, The

Wilderness Society, was at the University Law Center on Tuesday and spoke to an audience of 45 people regarding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and the controversy waging in the U.S. Senate over it.

**'It is the only untouched arctic eco-system in the world; there is nowhere else like it.'**

— Gaylord Nelson

At stake is whether to preserve the refuge for the wildlife inhabiting the area or to open the area to oil interests. The area in question is known as 1002, the number of a House law passed in 1980 that identifies the Arctic Coastal Plain as a national refuge. Nelson said the area, located in northeast Alaska, is about 19 million acres, close to half the size of Oregon.

"It is the only untouched arctic eco-system in the world; there is nowhere else like it," he said.

About 180,000 caribou and two million shorebirds would be displaced if oil interests began drilling in the area, according to Nelson.

Nelson cited estimates made by geologists who have studied the area. Their figures revealed that there is an 81 percent chance that no commercially produced oil will be found in ANWR, leaving only a 19 percent chance any amount of oil will be discovered. The oil interests, according to Nelson, hope to find about 3.2 billion barrels of oil in the area.

ANWR is located east of Prudhoe Bay, an Alaskan wilderness where oil was discovered, and the reserve there yielded nine billion barrels of commercially produced oil. But the chances of a find like that are only one percent, Nelson said, and the number of barrels would hardly be a long-term energy solution.

"Nine billion barrels of oil would only be a one-and-one-half year supply for the U.S.," he said. Estimates by the U.S. Department of the Interior have said there are 18.6 billion barrels of oil in Alaska, and around eight billion barrels have been discovered. Despite this fact, Nelson said he did not think the United States should go in to fragile eco-systems without plenty of background research, and not nearly enough has been done on ANWR. As of now, he

said, there are several bills being studied in Congress on the issue, and nothing conclusive on either side of the issue has been decided because this Congress is "inadequately informed" on ANWR.

"I think they should let a future Congress (after the 1988 election) decide on this because it needs a better study," Nelson said.

Nelson, former governor of Wisconsin and former senator in the Wisconsin State Senate and in the U.S. Senate, ad-

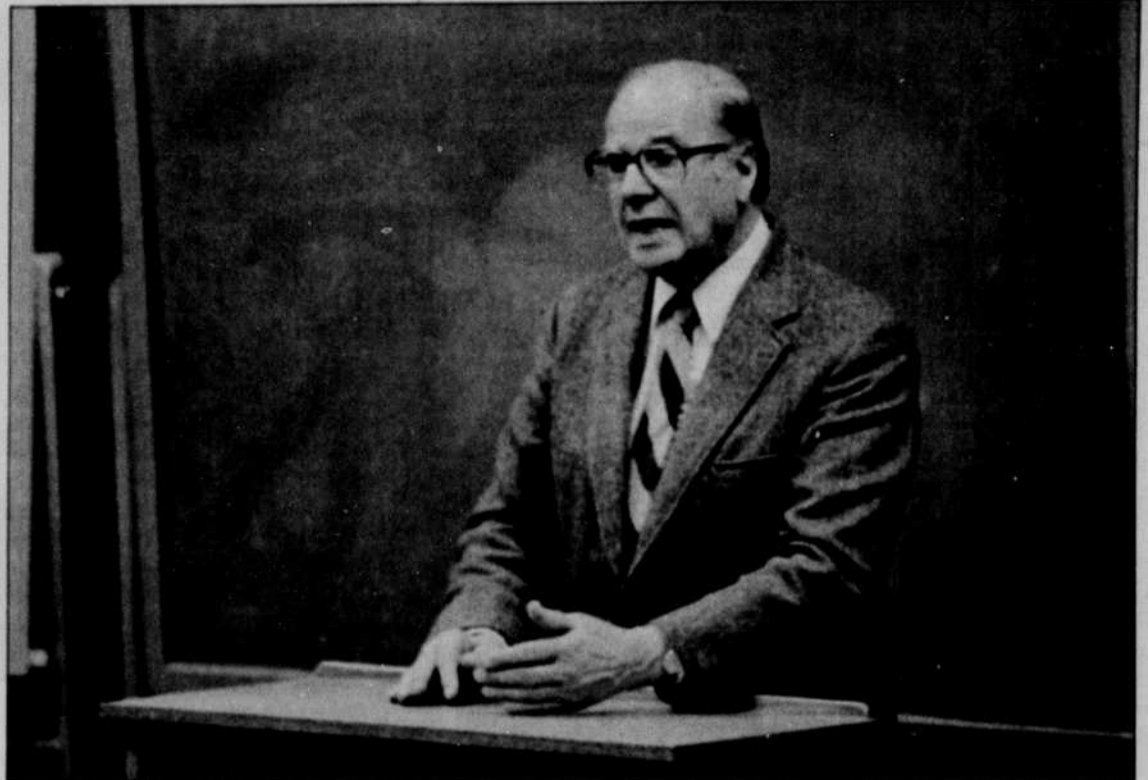


Photo by Rachel Kirby

Gaylord Nelson spoke at the University law school on Tuesday about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

vocated that citizens concerned about the issue should write their Congressman about it. The meeting opened with a 15-minute video presentation about ANWR, produced by The Wilderness Society. It was about the animals living in the area, the losses they would suffer if oil drilling was to take place there, and the problems other areas such as Prudhoe Bay have suffered because of oil drilling.

Nelson also said while there were a number of citizens from

Alaska who were opposed to the oil interests' desires, most citizens and politicians favored leasing the land to oil and gas leasing. He conjectured this fact was due to the economic benefits the project would bring to the area.

But in closing, Nelson stressed again citizens should write their Congressman to express their opinions on the matter.

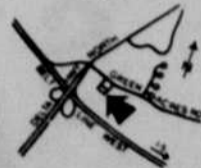
"You get actively interested (in this issue), and write your Congressman to inform him about this," Nelson said.

## FOOD CONNECTION

1060 GREEN ACRES EUGENE, OREGON 97401  
PHONE (503) 344-1901

*Because the time  
is right*

**NO MEMBERSHIP  
REQUIRED  
OPEN 24 HOURS  
344-1901**



Located at the  
Delta Oaks Shopping Center,  
1060 Green Acres Road  
at the intersection of  
Belt Line and Delta Hwy.  
in Eugene.

**Marina  
Bathroom  
Tissue**  
4 Pack

**77¢** each

FIRST TWO  
ADDITIONAL AT \$1.30

Prices good  
Wed., Oct. 21 through  
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 1987.

FOOD CONNECTION

**Heinz  
Ketchup**  
32 oz.

**98¢** each

FIRST TWO  
ADDITIONAL AT \$1.44

Prices good  
Wed., Oct. 21 through  
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 1987.

FOOD CONNECTION

**Blue Bell  
Potato  
Chips**  
8 oz. Box

**89¢** each

NO LIMIT

Prices good  
Wed., Oct. 21 through  
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 1987

FOOD CONNECTION

from BACKPACK to BRIEFCASE

## CAREER FAIR '87

Finding your niche in the World of Work  
at

- Peet Marwick Main & Co.
- Carnation Company
- Public Interest Research Groups
- Arthur Andersen Co.
- First Interstate Bank
- Internal Revenue Service
- Public Schools Cooperative
- Emporium Department Stores
- Black and Decker
- U.S. Bancorp
- S. C. Johnson & Son
- Naval Investigative Service
- U.S. General Accounting Office
- Willamette National Forest
- State of Oregon Employment
- Chevron
- E & J Gallo Co.
- U. S. Navy
- K-Mart Apparel
- CINTRAS
- IBM
- State Farm Insurance
- Merwyn's
- J. C. Penney Company
- U. S. Marines
- Kaufman's
- UARCO, Inc.
- Far West Federal Bank
- Peace Corps

**OCTOBER 20, 1987**  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
167 EMU



Sponsored by  
Career Planning and Placement Service  
244 Hendricks Hall • 886-3235



Year-Round  
**BUYBACK**  
UPSTAIRS-UO BOOKSTORE

BRING IN YOUR USED TEXTBOOKS ANYTIME