

Greens mark Clean Air Day with picnic, events

By Kathleen Taylor
Emerald Contributor

Cleaner air and a healthier planet are the goals of Eugene's first annual Clean Air Day being organized by the Southern Willamette Green Assembly.

The event will be celebrated Sunday with a potluck picnic, music, educational booths and games at Skinner's Butte Park.

"The whole idea centers around getting people to raise their awareness of how our habits affect our environment," said Clara Boggs, Southern Willamette Green Assembly education committee coordinator.

People are invited to bring a food dish to share at the picnic, which begins at 2 p.m. Music will be provided by classical guitarist Peter Thomas and two bands, Old Growth Revival and Reba and Nancy.

Local environmental groups and businesses will set up booths and displays to educate visitors about the problems of air pollution in the Willamette Valley, and how individuals can help prevent further pollution.

Also on hand will be a Lane Transit District bus dubbed "The Clean Air Day Bus," where people may learn about

the effects of automobile pollution and the advantages of mass transit in preventing it.

A bicycle clinic will be sponsored by the City Bicycle Committee.

The Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) will sponsor a display to inform visitors about the advantages of weatherization in preventing pollution from wood stove use.

"We think it is a great idea," Tom Santee of EWEB said.

Lane Air Pollution Authority is co-sponsoring the event. It will provide a picture display and distribute literature focusing on air pollution, especially auto pollution.

"It is obvious that Eugene has a problem, but we believe it is a manageable problem. Clean Air Day gives us an opportunity to keep people aware of the pollution problem," said Marty Douglas of Lane Air Pollution Authority.

The Southern Willamette Green Assembly is the local chapter of the organization National Green Committees of Correspondence, which formed about a year and a half ago modeled after a similar group based in Germany. The Greens have solid goals for government evolution to restore and protect the planet.

The project was made possi-

ble through donations by business and the public, Boggs said. The Greens now have about 100 members in Eugene, but are growing rapidly and receiving increasing support.

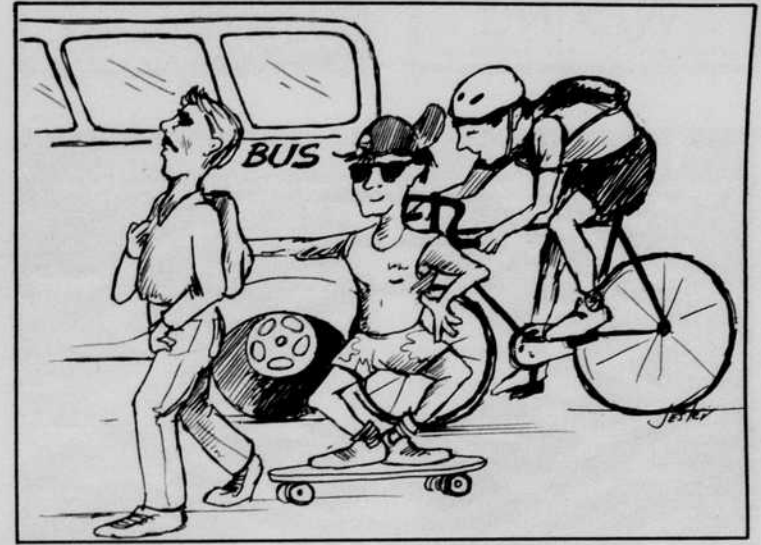
"We want to get people not just thinking about what automobiles do to the environment, but actually doing something," Boggs said. Carpooling, walking, riding buses and bicycling are all ways that Greens urge people to help reduce auto pollution.

Boggs said that she hopes that Clean Air Day will catch on across the country, adding she would like it to become an occasion for everyone to do some good in the world.

"Wouldn't it be exciting if Eugene were to lead the nation in this? We could put Eugene on the map for Clean Air Day," said Boggs.

The group would like to add games for kids to the program, but currently are in need of a "gamesmaster." The gamesmaster will direct kids in "newgames," non-competitive and non-violent events such as group Twister. Anyone interested in helping may call Boggs at 937-2077.

The picnic is free and will last until 6:30, when there will be an open meeting of the Greens at the park.



Graphic by Jarret Jester

Zoo Continued from Page 1

causes are the rapid destruction, deforestation and "development" of the earth's wild habitats, Beisser said.

The purpose for New Zoo's involvement in events like the Wildlife Show is for people to experience the importance of preserving the world's animals and habitats, Beisser said. He said that he hopes those in attendance at the New Zoo's events in turn support other wildlife organizations.

"It's a nice family event, a nice family outing," Beisser said. "But the bottom line is that we want people to come out

and see that we need to stop this from happening."

Those interested in travelling to the Wildlife Show can find the arboretum by taking 30th Street past Lane Community College over Interstate 5, turning left at the Sunny station. The arboretum is located over the bridge on Seavy Loop Road.

Volunteers are needed to supervise and coordinate the petting zoo and other exhibits, and those interested are encouraged to call 741-1744 or 342-8169.

The Wildlife Show is but an addition to the other seasonal

events held at the Arboretum each year. A flower show is held each spring, and a mushroom show each fall. Wagner said that if there is a large public turnout Saturday, the wildlife show will become a permanent addition to the Arboretum's calendar.

Admission to the event is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for children under 12. Refreshments will be on sale throughout the day.

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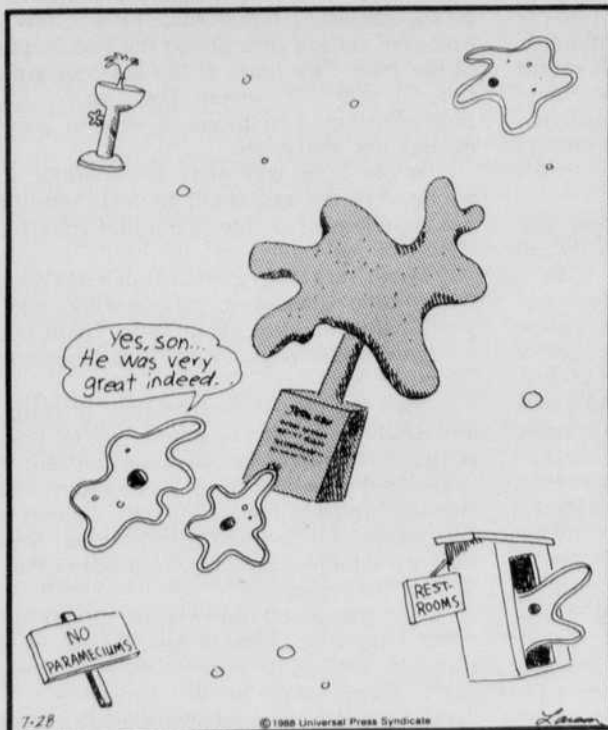
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