

Letters

Nuclear war

To those of you concerned about the possibility of nuclear war:

The Desert Ducks Affinity Group is a group of University students preparing for participation in Reclaim the Test Site II, non-violent direct action at the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site, April 7-16.

Last year's Reclaim the Test Site action had more than 5,000 participants. This year we expect twice that amount. We believe that an end to nuclear weapons testing is a key step in reducing the possibility of a nuclear war. As a participant of last year's action, I can assure you that this is a very empowering experience, and one you will never forget.

Jonathon Orelove
Student Campaign
for Disarmament
Suite 1, EMU

Toxics x 2

Oregon is currently facing a disturbing threat to public health and safety cause by the industrial use of toxic chemicals. When released into the

environment, these toxics can cause cancer, birth defects, and neurological disorders. In the Eugene/Springfield area alone, there are already 25 chemical waste sites created by local industries. At these sites, the toxics are dumped into landfills where they gradually seep into the groundwater below, the same water we use for bathing and drinking. This toxic contamination continues throughout Oregon, where, according to the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group's (OSPIRG) Feb. 23 report, 33 million pounds of toxic chemicals were discharged into the environment in 1987, of which 68,813 pounds were released here in Lane County!

Fortunately, action is being taken against toxic pollution in the form of OSPIRG's Toxic Use Reduction Act (HB2334), which would not only provide incentives and mandates for Oregon industries to reduce their use of toxics, but would also provide a research and education program to help businesses find non-toxic alternatives and show them how to reduce toxic use. In addition, this act would give citizens the right to take legal action against those users that failed

to comply with reduction plans.

Hand-in-hand with the Toxic Use Reduction Act is the Hazardous Substance Fund Act which would address the state's most pressing toxic problems. This fund would be in part provided by the large industries which continue to use toxics, including a gasoline tax on the petroleum industry. Who better to tax than the industry whose petroleum products account for 51 percent of the toxic chemicals in use?!

As a concerned citizen, I urge you to support these two bills and to make your support known to your state legislator. In supporting these bills, we can prevent the use of harmful toxics and find alternatives, thus saving money on expensive toxic waste clean-ups in the future, and more importantly, preserving the health of all Oregonians.

Meredith Li
Asian Studies

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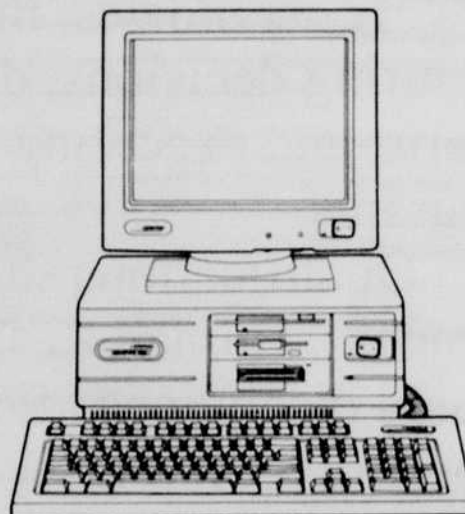
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