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## Pesticides examined as hazards to health of Oregon farmworkers

EUGENE (AP) — An adviser to California farm labor leader Cesar Chavez will study the effects of pesticides on the health of Oregon farmworkers during the next six months.

Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United, which represents about 2,400 of the estimated 50,000 farmworkers in the state, plans to draw up a list of the pesticides being used and to document physical problems of workers who work around the chemicals.

"I suspect we'll find the same pesticides being used that we've found in California," said Dr. Marion Moses, who was in the Eugene area on Monday and Tuesday meeting with union officials and farmworkers.

Moses was Chavez's physician when the labor leader went on a 36-day fast in 1988 to protest the use of pesticides on table grapes and to dramatize a union boycott started in 1984.

Oregon health officials and farmers have said pesticides are applied under safe conditions and that risk to workers is generally minimal.

But those assertions are a matter of opinion. Moses said Tuesday, noting the state's most recent pesticide use estimate is based on information provided by 49 pesticide dealers, not by contacting those who actually applied the insect and weed killers.

Farmworkers have a right to know in detail the risk factors of the chemicals they work around, said Moses, a specialist in occupational medicine who has been working with the United Farm Workers Union in central California since 1983.

"Farmworkers haven't yet made the connection between illness and use of pesticides," she said. "Often, they are just told that the chemicals

are medicine for the crops. I tell them it's not medicine, it's poison."

Oregon union official Larry Kleinman said his union wants to create the safest possible working conditions for Oregon farmworkers.

"It's in the best interest of the growers to have a healthy workforce," he said.

Moses said environmental protection of workers is weak and generally not enforced in most states. As an example, she noted the recent confirmation by California state health authorities of the third cluster since 1984 of childhood cancer among poor Hispanic farmworkers in a town where the cancer rate is 12 times the normal rate for towns the same size.

Moses said the cases confirm farmworkers' contention that the children are victims of cancer-causing chemicals sprayed on grapes and other crops.

Kleinman said calls by the Oregon farmworkers union to negotiate working conditions in regard to pesticide use have been virtually ignored by growers.

"We've decided we better know for certain what we're dealing with before we talk about those conditions," he said. "Once we know what's out there, the membership will decide what needs to be done next."

Kleinman said the union may support a consumer boycott of some Oregon crops or call for bans on some pesticides if doing so appears to be the only way to protect the health of workers. "But again that would be decided once we determine what's out there," he said.

The union plans to have the study completed sometime during the 1990 harvest season, although there is no firm timetable. Kleinman said.



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## CREATING A RAPE-FREE ENVIRONMENT WEEK -- OCTOBER 2-7, 1989

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Mon: "Quit Harassing Me!" a workshop for students  
Noon-2 p.m., Forum Room, EMU  
"What Part of No Don't You Understand?: Sex Reconsidered"  
presented by Mark Stevens, Ph. D. of USC  
7-9 p.m., Carson Hall, Gold Room
- Tues: "Dogs as Running Partners"  
presented by Project Safe Run  
Noon, EMU Courtyard  
"I Know She Said NO, But I Thought She Meant Maybe",  
presented by Mark Stevens, Ph.D. of USC  
6-8:30 p.m., Ballroom, EMU
- Wed: "Safety from the Inside Out" ASUO Brown Bag Forum  
presented by Nadia Telsey, a self-defense expert  
Noon, Forum Room, EMU  
"Sex Crimes and the Judicial System" a panel of experts  
3-5 p.m., Forum Room, EMU  
"Still Killing Us Softly" a film and discussion  
7-10 p.m., Fir Room, EMU
- Thurs: "Sexual Assault 101" a presentation by VOICES of Eugene  
Noon, Forum Room, EMU  
"SEX AND POWER: The Balancing Act of the 90's"  
presented by Andrea Parrot, Ph.D. of Cornell University  
6-8 p.m., Ballroom, EMU
- Sat: "Take Back the Night" March and Speak-out  
presented by the ASUO and Women's Center  
6:30 p.m., EMU Courtyard

**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

These events were made possible by: University of Oregon Student Affairs Division, ASUO, Office of the President, Men Against Rape, The Women's Center, Office of Affirmative Action, Office of Business Affairs, Rape Crisis Network, Womenspace, Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, Office of Student Advocacy, Office of the Vice President for Administration, Office of Public Safety, Office of Multicultural Affairs, University Housing, Office of the Provost, Crime Prevention Association of Oregon, Eugene Police Benevolent Association, Lane County Crime Prevention Council, Eugene Commission on the Rights of Women, Springfield Police Officers Association, Project Safe Run, The Athletic Department, Office of the Vice President for Public Affairs and Development, and The Center for the Study of Women in Society.



Dr. Andrea Parrot of Cornell University

### DID A RAPE TAKE PLACE? HOW WOULD YOU HANDLE THIS SITUATION?

Dave and Kelly were study partners in their calculus class. One evening after studying they decided to relax over drinks at a local bar. After several rounds of drinks, Dave suggested they return to his apartment. Kelly agreed feeling fairly drunk and sensing a mutual attraction. The next morning Kelly awoke to find herself in Dave's bed. Fear overcame her as she began to piece together events after leaving the bar. Dave had given her several more drinks at his place and then began kissing her. The next thing Kelly knew, she was in Dave's bed and he was struggling to undress her. Kelly resisted but quickly gave in to Dave's strength. Upon return to her dorm room, Kelly decided not to tell anyone what happened and never talked to Dave again.