

Oregon Daily Emerald

Wednesday, January 17, 1990

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 91, Number 79

Inside

- Campus events, Page 5
- Police Beat, Page 5
- Summer tuition hearing, Page 6
- USSA protests veto, Page 6

Power lines spark controversy

Hills residents fighting lines

By Hon Walker
Emerald Associate Editor

Residents of Eugene's south hills have long been wary of the Bonneville Power Administration's long-envisioned plan to construct a 500,000-volt power line through their neighborhoods.

In 1982 the BPA first announced its proposal and was met with public outcry because of the aesthetic loss and radio and television interference that would result for homes close to the line.

Now, the BPA is set to choose one of four possible routes for the power line later this year, and a new concern is on the minds of local residents and lawmakers.

"The issue has moved from 'not in my backyard' to 'not in my living room, dining room, nor bedroom,'" said Derek Jaros, a south hills neighborhood resident and member of the Citizens for Responsible Power Routing community group.

Jaros owns a home along the favored power route proposal, and he is among many homeowners who are increasingly concerned about the possible link between strong electromagnetic fields (EMFs) and a variety of health risks, from cancer to memory problems.

Jaros said he refuses to keep his home if a high-voltage line is built near it, and he fears that the value of his house may decline as public alarm about health risks grows. He bought his home before he learned of any possible EMF dangers, he said.

"Had I known anything about EMF at the time, it's extremely doubtful that I would have bought it."

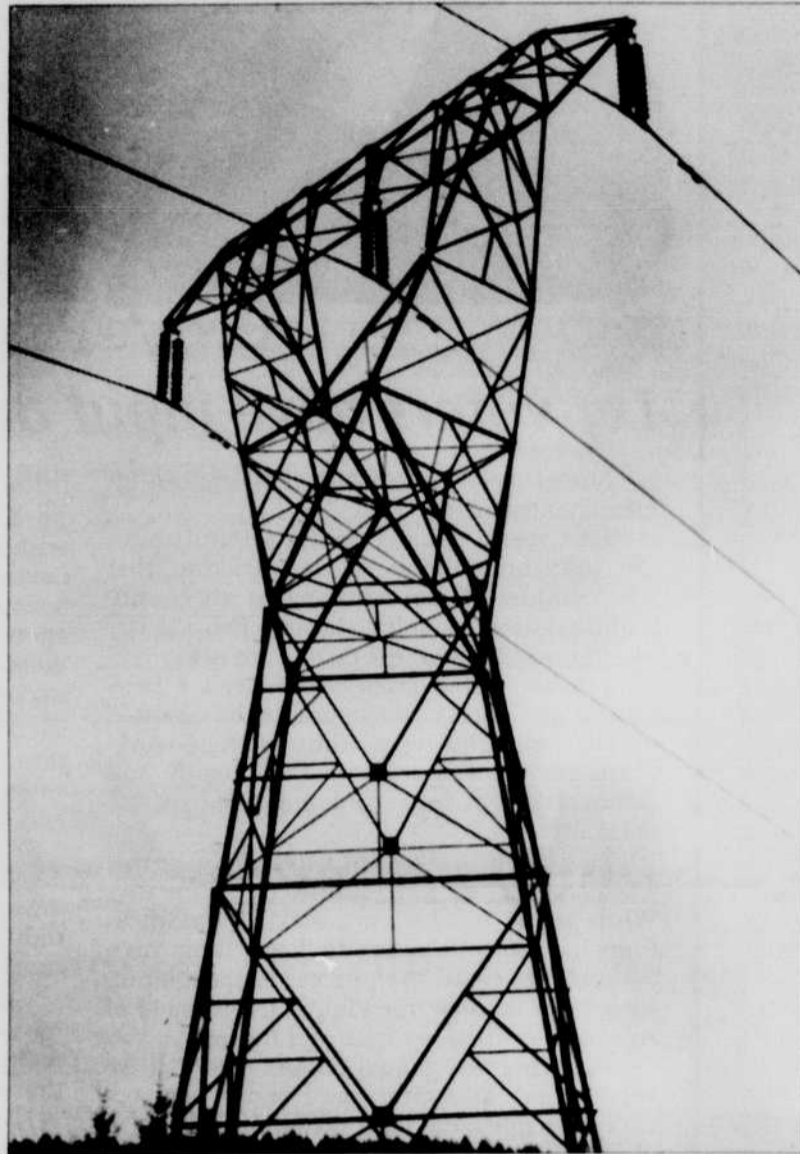


Photo by Steve Card

The BPA's proposed south hills lines are angering residents.

The scientific community is divided, as direct cause and effect relationships have not been demonstrated.

Turn to Power, Page 16

Groups starting ethnic newsletter

By Jolie Andrade
Emerald Reporter

Ethnic students will now be able to voice their opinions and learn of important cultural, political and social issues through a specialized newsletter, *Multicultural Review*.

The newsletter will incorporate the views, goals and commitments of University student unions, not just the activities they're sponsoring, said Eddie Beanes, MEChA Director.

It will also serve as a forum for updates in the political, social, and cultural arena, Beanes said.

Political issues on campus, in Oregon, in the United States, and in Latin and Central America will be discussed.

Updates on Native American actions will also be included, said Michelle Singer, director of the Native American Student Union.

Social perspectives will include student opinions, commentary on student government activities, allocation of student money, and student union activities, Beanes said.

"We want students to be aware of activities for them as well as progress being made culturally and socially," he said.

The newsletter, sponsored by MEChA, the Black Student Union, the Native American Student Union and the Asian/Pacific-American Student Union, will be the first to serve as a voice for all of the student unions.

This will be the first time these four groups have joined efforts to produce something this important, Beanes said.

"It's important for people of color to create something on their own so other kids can see something happening," Singer said. "For once we have something more in depth than just a flyer stating an event."

Beanes said he only approached the other student unions with the idea because he felt they were not appropriately represented.

Students within these unions have devoted their time to the writing and production involved, he said.

The bimonthly newsletter is scheduled to debut at the end of January and will be mailed to students of color, Beanes said. Beanes encourages all students to contribute to the newsletter.

Miller asks churches to ease homeless problem

Mayor's solution targeted for families

By Kym Gilhooly
Emerald Reporter

If Eugene Mayor Jeff Miller has his way there will be some room at the inn for Eugene area homeless families.

Miller requested in his State of the City address last Monday that local churches and synagogues open their doors to provide homeless families with emergency shelter and meals.

Miller said he had discussed his proposal with local clergy but hadn't received any offers of assistance.

Norman Metzler, chairman of the Members of the Clergy Homeless Task Force, said he and representatives from several local churches formed the task force last winter to address shelter possibilities for homeless families.

The task force specifically targets homeless families because single people have more

emergency housing options, Metzler said.

Metzler and Miller met earlier this year to discuss problems homeless families were having with police when parking their cars overnight.

Initially, task force members asked the county to relax restrictions on overnight parking at Alton Baker Park, as toilet facilities are readily available. But county officials denied the request, claiming the park is not designed for overnight use.

"We then asked local churches to offer their parking lots for families with cars so they wouldn't be asked to move off the curb at night," Metzler said. "We hoped that churches would offer toilet facilities, and even further, open their doors for the night."

San Diego operates a church-shelter program that offers housing and meals to the homeless on a rotating basis,

Metzler said.

Metzler said he is collecting data on other successful church-sponsored programs so he can challenge local churches to offer similar services.

While Metzler doesn't see the city providing funds for church-based housing, he believes that parishes can summon volunteers to cook meals and prepare beds.

Jeanne Casey, program administrator for Catholic Community Services, said she foresees problems with Miller's proposal.

"I think there are some real liability issues with the mayor's proposal," Casey said, adding that Eugene's Trinity Methodist Church housed a family last year, but the church didn't have bathing or kitchen facilities.

In addition, the family was required to leave the church during the day and couldn't



Photo by Martin Thiel

Norman Metzler, chairman of the Members of the Clergy Homeless Task Force, is working on plans to open the doors of local churches to homeless families.

adequately care for family members who may have been ill.

Casey said she prefers that local churches provide funding for Catholic Community Ser-

vices' voucher program.

Last year, local churches sponsored seven homeless families by donating money to

Turn to Homeless, Page 16