

# Money for workers needs to continue

In the continuing episode of his timber plan fight with Oregon Rep. Les AuCoin, Sen. Bob Packwood announced some good news: The U.S. Department of Labor has released \$1.4 million to assist Oregon timber workers who have lost their jobs.

Timber workers and their dependents have wanted to hear this news for some time now. Packwood — the legislator who would like Oregon timber workers to believe he is the only lawmaker on their side — jumped right on the chance to be the messenger.

The Economic Dislocation and Workers Adjustment Assistance Act grant will provide 350 workers with career counseling, job search assistance, education, job training and other support, Packwood told the Associated Press.

Although \$1.4 million seems like a lot of money to the average worker, it won't go far in heading off the troubled times for the industry. The 350 dislocated workers who will be helped with this money are a relative handful when compared with the overall scope of Oregon's timber industry woes. Some estimate that tens of thousands of workers will be affected by closures caused in part by the old-growth/spotted-owl controversy.

The \$1.4 million is a generous step in the right direction, but it is only a first step. A comprehensive plan for saving old growth, and being sensitive to the lives of timber workers needs to be found.

AuCoin and Packwood, who will be competing for Packwood's senate seat in 1992, have offered alternative plans for reaching some kind of balance. It is hoped that the two men will not let their political ambitions get in the way of hammering out a plan that will benefit as many people, birds and trees as possible.

# Walls come down at fair

Eugene is thought of by many people in the state as the sleepy little college town in the Willamette Valley. Eugene's just another typical American town with softball tournaments, summer concerts in the park, corner ice cream shops and Fourth of July parades.

However, as most anyone who has lived here knows, this small college town gets its fair share of people whose lifestyles and attitudes fork off from the mainstream. The Oregon Country Fair, which takes place just west of town in Veneta, is a good example.

If you didn't get a chance to see this year's fair, you missed a lesson in freedom and openness, but there's always next year.



**OPINION**

# Spanning the globe to bring you ...

Something smelly's goin' on

## THE FINE PRINT

BY AP WIRE

One advantage to being hooked up to the Associated Press wire service is the amount and variety of timely stories a person is given the opportunity to read. The following are some of the strangest, funniest and hardest-to-believe stories that have graced our monitors.

### You're never too young

LICKING, Mo. (AP) — He's 91 years old. His son is 2.

Those numbers would be surprising to most people, but not Jimmie Jones, a great-great grandfather, who's proud of his latest offspring, Roger.

"I wasn't shocked," said Jones, who lives in the rural community of Licking, about 120 miles southwest of St. Louis. "I knew I was one hell of a man."

Sandy Jones, 42, his wife, agrees.

"I did, too," she said. "When the doctor told us I was pregnant, we didn't know whether to be tickled pink or shocked pink."

Jimmie Jones, who's first wife died in 1975, has 17 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. He was born in Osceola, Ark., and credits his longevity and virility to a diet of home-grown, home-cooked food — especially wild "poke leaf" salads.

### Ball wasn't clear enough

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (AP) — One thing that didn't show up clearly in the crystal ball at a psychic fair was a raid.

Police arrested seven people Saturday for allegedly violating a city ordinance that prohibits anyone from profiting commercially from palm and card readings or other methods of predicting the future.

"We consider these readings a fraud," said police Sgt. Dave Smith "If they can tell the future, how come they didn't know we were coming?"

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly two tons of elephant manure was stolen from Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus. Police blamed it on April Fool's day, but the circus wasn't laughing.

### 'Higher' education

TROY, Mich. (AP) — A high school student who allegedly told friends she drugged her English teacher has been ordered to stand trial on a poisoning charge.

Linda Marie Conflitti, 17, could face up to five years in prison for allegedly dropping the hallucinogenic LSD into teacher Robert Heffernan's coffee Dec. 7.

Heffernan said he started hallucinating and felt nauseated shortly after the third hour of class. He went to rest in the teacher's lounge and later became terrified when family snapshots at his desk triggered hallucinations.

Heffernan, who has not returned to school since the incident, said that when he went to a hospital for treatment, he confused the emergency room doctor for the character Spock on the TV series *Star Trek* because his ears looked distorted.

### Made vacation plans yet?

MOSCOW (AP) — Ukrainian officials have a new idea for tourists bored with the same dumb lap, lap, lap of wavelets on a Caribbean shore: a visit to the contamination zone around the Chernobyl nuclear plant.

According to Sunday's *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspaper, trips for foreign and Soviet tourists will begin and end with Geiger counter tests to check the visitors' exposure to radiation. If treatment at a radiological medical center is needed, it will be provided "at no extra charge," the newspaper said.

### Rose City is just beefy

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland residents love vegetable beef soup.

That's the conclusion of the Campbell's Soup Co., which says residents of Oregon's largest city eat more Campbell's vegetable beef soup per capita than any other city in the United States.

Seattle residents consumed more cream of mushroom soup than residents of any other city.

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