

Chernobyl accident re-examined

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

Ending years of misinformation, University researchers are joining with Moscow State University researchers on a project aimed at verifying the health and environmental risks posed by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident.

When the project is completed, it will provide a computer simulation that shows the nature, location and extent of radiation contamination as it continues to move through the landscape and biological systems, including the food and water supply.

The study is headed by University professors John Baldwin, an expert in environmental planning, management and education, and David Hulse, an expert on geographic information systems, and by Moscow State professor Dmitri Kavtaradze, an expert on urban ecology.

"This demonstrates how ideas are born at the University of Oregon and are put to use in an international milieu," University President Myles Brand

said.

A Russian research team will travel to the University in March for computer training. In June, University researchers will visit the study site in the Bryansk region of southwestern Russia to field-verify data.

"The need to provide accurate information to citizens about health risks is so great that the Russian government is allowing access to previously unavailable maps of areas affected by Chernobyl," Baldwin said.

The project was initiated last spring at the personal request of Gennady Yagodin, then Minister of the Soviet State Committee on Public Education. Yagodin approached Baldwin and Hulse about developing a study of radiation hazards while they were in Russia on an exchange program.

Hulse said that, nearly six years after the accident, the full human and ecological effects are still unknown.

The target study area covers approximately 200 square miles in the Bryansk region, encompassing the communities of Novosybrov and Zlinka. As

funding for later phases becomes available, project leaders hope to expand their efforts to the states most directly affected by the Chernobyl disaster — Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.

Hulse said the computer program will be able to pinpoint areas where sensitive populations coincide with high levels of radiation. Sensitive populations include children and pregnant women.

These groups are so sensitive, Hulse said, because children and fetuses have rapidly growing cells, and radiation may mutate that cell growth.

The project will enable citizens and decision-makers in the affected republics to facilitate their ongoing evacuation and relocation efforts.

A \$250,000 grant from the John and Catherine MacArthur Foundation will support the first phase of a project. The grant came from the Foundation's Human Societies and Environmental Change Grant Competition and was only one of seven awarded from among more than 100 applicants.

Only two out of the seven were awarded to American re-



Photo by Jeff Paslay

University Professor David Hulse talks of the use of a digital data base using a macGIS system for geographic information to pinpoint areas of high radiation.

search institutions.

In March, the Russian and American researchers will begin the nine-month task of

building a digital data base using macGIS, the geographic information system designed at the University.

Brand looking for 'short term' solution to cuts

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

University President Myles Brand said he does not want the University to take more "vertical cuts" of programs and services if Measure 5 requires further budget cuts.

Instead, Brand told the University Senate Wednesday afternoon that he wants to "find a way to sustain ourselves over the short term" without taking the permanent program cuts that the University was mandated to take last year.

Brand said Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts is expected to come out with a tax restructuring proposal next week. Her proposal will be sent to the state Legislature in a special session and will likely be sent to a public vote.

This vote could come in early June, Brand said, at a time when University students are in transition. He said the University will inform students on how to avoid losing their ability to vote if they are changing residences in June.

If the public approves a tax restructuring plan, the University may be spared further cuts, Brand said, but if a new tax plan fails, the State Board of Higher Education might order another tuition surcharge for the 1993-95 biennium.

Brand said he will wait before forming a contingency plan, because to form a plan at this point would be counterproductive.

In other business, the Senate passed a resolution on Department of Defense policy and a motion regarding dead week activities.

The resolution, sponsored by Student Senator Brian Hoop, said, "The University Senate strongly condemns discrimination against gays and lesbians and recommends and requests President George Bush to sign an Executive Order to immedi-

'How long are we going to continue to allow the military to disallow a segment of the population from joining?'

— Brian Hoop,
Student Senator

ately rescind Department of Defense Directive 1332.14 which excludes lesbian, gay and bisexual people from the U.S. Armed Forces."

"How long are we going to continue to allow the military to disallow a segment of the population from joining?" Hoop said.

Hoop said he wanted the motion, which passed 25-1-4, to be brought up before Brand and ASUO President Jennifer Bills travel to Washington, D.C., to address Congress about the discriminatory policy.

However, Brand said he was not completely in support of the resolution, as universities should not be instruments of social change.

"A university is a special kind of institution that should not be taking a pro-active stance in favor of certain political views," he said.

At the February meeting, the Senate will discuss two motions brought by Hoop — one to remove the Reserved Officer Training Corps from campus, and one to prohibit military recruiting on campus.

The Senate passed a motion by Sen. Barry Siegal that any University-sponsored event or activity that requires a special contract or agreement and requires student participation must be first cleared through the provost.

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FILMS & SPEAKERS—Peace Corps tell it like it is. Wed. 12:30 PM-1:30, "Fresh Water Fisheries: A Honduran Experience", EMU, Walnut Rm. 7 PM-9 PM. Panel: returned Peace Corps volunteers & UO international students, Cedar Rm. A.
 Thurs. 12:30 PM-1:30 PM, "Nepal: Land of Mystery", EMU, Walnut Room.
INTERVIEWS will be held Feb 5 & 6. For an appointment, call Career Planning & Placement, 346-3235.
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