

UNIVERSITY

Prof speaks on nuclear leak cover-up

By Brad Brant
Emerald Contributor

For decades mismanagement of the Hanford nuclear facility in Southeastern Washington allowed large amounts of radioactive elements to leak into the environment, a University assistant professor said Friday.

Most of the information concerning these leaks was classified by the government.

"When wind surfers talk of nuclear winds in the Columbia Gorge, they aren't kidding," said Dennis Todd, last week's guest speaker at the Student Environmental Forum's weekly discussion on the environment.

What Todd describes as "the most shocking" incident at Hanford involved the deliberate release of a radioactive iodine into the air by the government. This incident, called the Green Run, occurred in 1949. The government wanted to trace the levels of the iodine in the air as it drifted farther from the Hanford site.

"They thought if they could do that, they could pinpoint in the Soviet Union where the nuclear production sites were," Todd said.

Todd said the government's secretive attitude surrounding Hanford was exemplified in a remark by an Atomic Energy Commission official

about the Green Run releases. Todd quoted the official as saying, "Nothing was to be gained from informing the public about the releases."

This secretive attitude prevailed at Hanford until the mid-80's when government reports began revealing many truths about the facility. The reports prompted review of records at Hanford showing periodic incidents in which large amounts of plutonium were unaccounted for.

In 1986, Todd said, it was discovered that 2,800 pounds of plutonium were lost — enough for more than 100 nuclear weapons, he said.

Besides leaking radioactive elements into the air, the facility also leaked radioactive elements into the Columbia River and into the ground water. For a time, water that had been run over the nuclear reactor at Hanford was simply cooled and flushed back into the river, Todd said.

In the mid-50's, biologists at the site found hazardous levels of radioactive elements in the river's life forms, he said, running down a long list of environmental troubles caused by the facility.

Todd said the Columbia is currently "the most radioactive river in the world."

Todd's lecture was part of the Student Environmental Forum's Friday Brown Bag Series, a series of informal discussions on environmental issues. The discussions take place every Friday from 12:30 to 1:30 in Room 206 Lawrence Hall.

HEALTH

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The vast array of activities in this year's symposium promises something for everyone. The following is a complete calendar of events:

MONDAY —

- AIDS Information Table, EMU Lobby.
- "How Safe Are We?" Campus Safety Workshop, EMU Cedar Room D from 11:30 to 12:30.
- Home Safety Workshop, EMU Cedar Room D, 1 to 2:30.
- "Do You Have An Eating Disorder?" Workshop, EMU Cedar Room E from 2:30 to 3:30.
- "Current Issues and Reproductive Rights," Lecture, EMU Cedar Room D from 3:30 to 5.

- "Friends of Sexual Assault and Rape Survivors," Workshop, EMU Century Room D, from 5 to 8.

TUESDAY —

- "Know Your Resources," Faire, EMU Gumwood Room, 10:30 to 12:30.
- "HIV In Our Community," Panel on AIDS, EMU Ben Linder Room, 1 to 2.
- CPR/First Aid Review, EMU Cedar Room E, 5 to 9.
- AIDS Panel, EMU Ben Linder Room, 6:30 to 9.

WEDNESDAY —

- "Sexual Assault and Harassment on Campus," Panel Discussion, EMU Cedar Room B, 11:30 to 12:30.
- "Developing A Healthy Lifestyle," Workshop, EMU Cedar

Room B, 5 to 5:30.

- AIDS Prevention Teen Theater, EMU Ben Linder Room, 7 to 9. Discussion to follow.

THURSDAY —

- Alternative Health Care Faire, EMU Lobby and Terrace, TUESDAY, MARCH 3 —
- Self Defense Workshop, Sigma Kappa sorority on E. 15th Avenue.

CORRECTION

In an article in the Feb. 18 *Emerald*, Erin Collier's affiliation was reported incorrectly. Collier is the volunteer coordinator for Sexual Assault Support Services. The *Emerald* regrets the error and any confusion it may have caused.

PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL

People's Law School (PLS) is a cooperative effort of the Oregon Trial Lawyer's Association and the University of Oregon's People's Law School. Judges, practicing lawyers and law students will teach an Adult Education Series designed to better inform the public about the way the legal system really works.

DATES	TOPICS
• January 29th	Understanding the court system: the Role of the Judge, Lawyer and Jury - A Day in the Courtroom How the Legislature Works - Your National and State Representatives
• February 5th	Probates; Wills and Estates; Trusts; Social Security Disability Claims
• February 12th	Dealing with Insurance Companies - Claim for Personal Injury, Product Liability, Professional Negligence
• February 19th	Consumer rights; Debtor/Creditor Law; Bankruptcy
• February 26th	Divorce and Child Custody; Adoption
• March 4th	Criminal Law - DUIs, Parole, Probation, Victims Rights, How to Choose a Criminal Lawyer; Sentencing
• March 11th	Your Rights in Real Estate Transactions; Landlord/Tenant Law
• March 18th	Rights of Employees; Discrimination in the Work Place; Workers' Compensation

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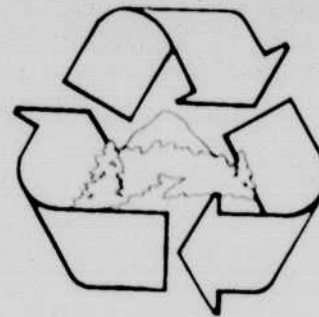
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- The Israeli role in the War
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Public Welcome

Mon., Feb. 24

1:30 - 4:30

Ben Linder, EMU

Sponsored by the Muslim Student Association (MSA)

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON

