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Saturday Jan. 9 \$5

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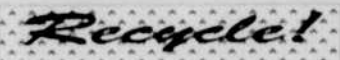
Sunday Jan. 10 \$6

An evening of country and western with
Ranch Romance
beginning at 8:30 sharp!

Music Starts at 10pm

Mon-Sat

Music starts at 8pm Sundays



Foresters ask Clinton to investigate reprisals



WASHINGTON (AP)

— Past and present Forest Service workers urged President-elect Clinton on Thursday to investigate alleged reprisals against agency scientists documenting damage from logging in national forests.

"When good, solid science reaches a conclusion other than what forest managers want, the science is suppressed and the scientists are punished," said Brian Hunt, an organizer for the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics.

The group's request stems from growing tensions over land use in national forests — notably the Clearwater in Idaho and the Tongass in Alaska. AFSEEE launched a radio advertising campaign Thursday in Little Rock, Ark., to try to draw Clinton's attention to alleged pressure on Forest Service workers in the field.

Jeff Eller, a spokesman for Clinton's transition office, said aides to Clinton would review AFSEEE's concerns.

The ads single out the Clearwater and Tongass, but activists say problems there are a microcosm of a systemwide clash and underscore the need to reassess the century-old agency's mission.

"This internal conflict between those who want to get the cut out and those who want to protect the resource is building up to the boiling point," Hunt said Thursday from Eugene, where the 10,000-member AFSEEE is based.

"The warring factions have drawn the line on every forest across the country. It's just more acute on the Clearwater," he said.

Earlier this week, Al Espinosa, 53, of Moscow, Idaho, announced he was ending his 19-year career as the fisheries biologist on the Clearwater forest rather than continue fighting supervisors over logging plans.

Espinosa said the forest's current logging quotas are "in fantasy land" and could never be achieved without breaking environmental laws.

The former University of Nevada-Las Vegas researcher said the Forest Service routinely violates its own laws to inflate timber-harvest targets and appease the timber industry.

Espinosa said he suspects his fellow resource specialists will be ordered transferred for documenting damage to troubled fish and wildlife species.

"They are after a couple of wildlife and hydrology specialists. I would have been one of them if I stayed," said Espinosa, who opted for early retirement.

"I think they are trying to roll those people so they can get the (timber) cut up faster," he said Thursday in a telephone interview.

In Alaska, a longtime biologist at the Tongass National Forest announced last month he was leaving his post after serving as the leader of a team assigned to develop a protection plan for species dependent on old-growth forests.

Lowell Suring said he was tired of bat-

'When good, solid science reaches a conclusion other than what forest managers want, the science is suppressed and the scientists are punished.'

— Brian Hunt,

Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics.

ting timber interests and mad that superiors held back the report, which warned that continuing current logging levels would jeopardize goshawks, wolves and otters.

A dispute has been simmering in the 1.7 million-acre Clearwater — home to troubled salmon and trout species, grizzly bears, wolverines and lynx since — last year, when the agency's former regional boss, John Mumma, told Congress he was forced from his job when he resisted pressure to overharvest.

Mumma, who oversaw forests in Idaho and Montana, told a House subcommittee that logging quotas could not be met without breaking the law.

"There has just been too much political tinkering through the appropriations process that requires the Forest Service to maintain too high of harvest levels," Mumma said in an interview last month.

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Keisling says no to Packwood inquiry

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Secretary of State Phil Keisling said Thursday he won't investigate an allegation that U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood violated a state election law in his handling of sexual misconduct allegations against him.

Packwood's opponents alleged that Packwood broke a law against using undue influence in elections by lying to the

news media and seeking to discredit women who accused him of making unwanted sexual advances.

But Keisling said that conduct, even if it occurred, does not fall under the definition of Oregon's undue influence law.

"Oregon statutes do not give this office broad authority to regulate dishonesty by elected officials except under specific

circumstances defined in election law," Keisling said in a prepared statement.

A lawyer for Packwood, John DiLorenzo, called Keisling's finding "a complete vindication" of Packwood.

"It is clear that the senator at no time committed any Oregon election fraud," DiLorenzo said.

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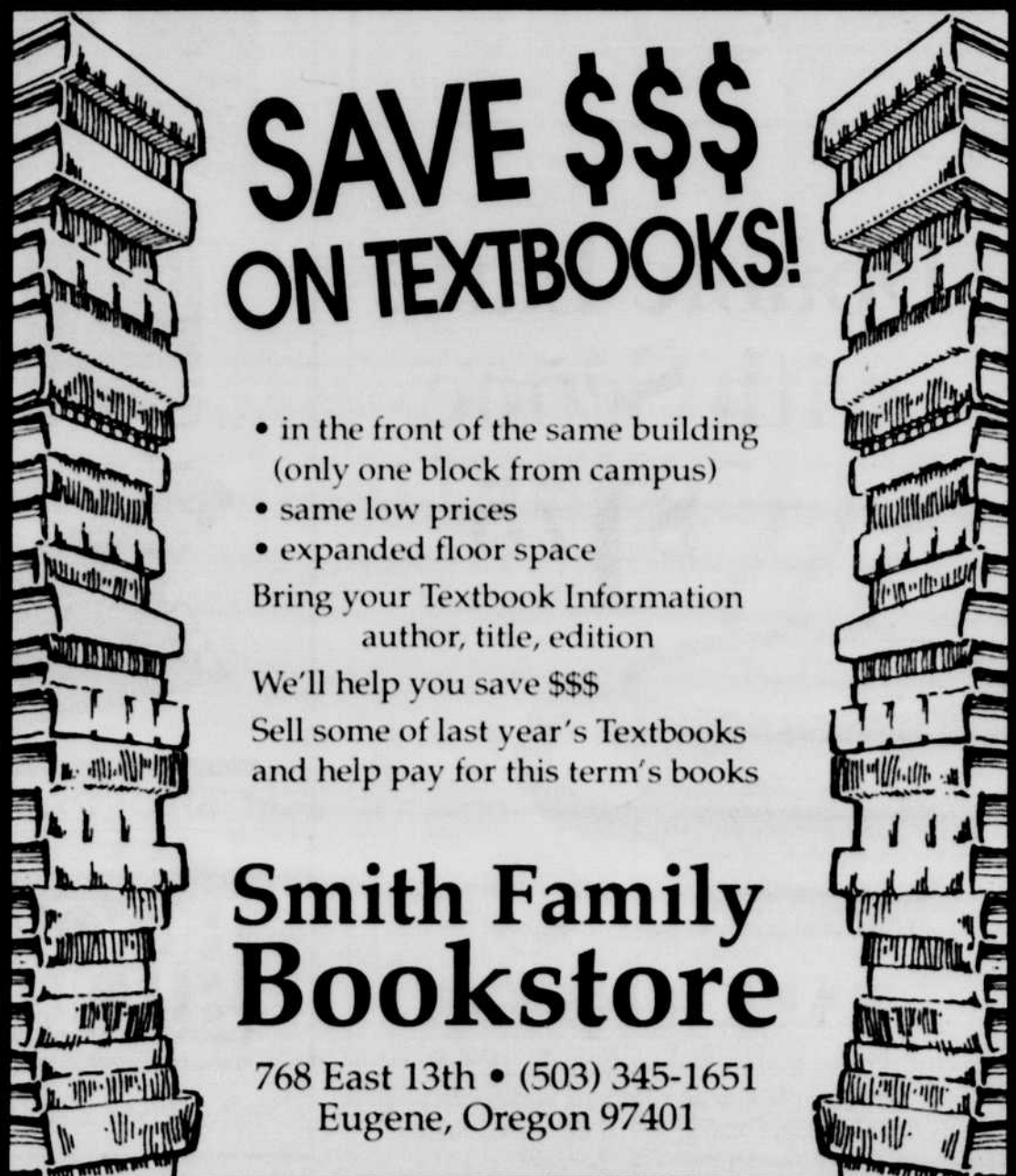
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