

River: Clean Water Act may be expanded soon

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concerned about industrial pollution, the loss of wetlands and deformed fish and wildlife.

In addition, the results showed that about 85 percent of people surveyed expressed "extreme" concern about the level of toxic chemicals in the river.

However, the survey also showed that no policy option to help restore and protect the river received more than 40 percent support. The statistic was derived from one question designed to measure the degree of public support for the various strategies available to protect the river.

The results also showed that less than 20 percent of those surveyed felt environmental laws need to be strengthened. Griffin attributed this as a vote of "low confidence" for legislators.

At the University level, OSPIRG has attempted to heighten public awareness of pesticide use that may contribute to the pollution of the Willamette.

Eric Colbeck, who is involved with OSPIRG's Pesticide Project, said the first two components of a U.S. Geological Survey report on the Willamette River Basin point to high levels of chemical pollutants that result in fish deformities throughout the basin.

"The report said chemicals call for fish deformities," he said. "The further you go down the river, the more deformities and amounts of pesticides have a chance to go into the river."

Colbeck said he believes there should be heightened public awareness about the levels of chemicals in the river.

"It's scary because there is so much we don't know about," he said. "Chemicals seem to be innocent until proven guilty."

There have been recent legislative efforts in Oregon aimed at heightening public awareness, Colbeck said.

He pointed to last year's local passing of the "Toxics Right to Know" legislation, which he believes is more stringent than federal environmental laws.

But President Clinton recently proposed more funding to help beef up protection of the waters on a federal level.

A Clinton proposal to broaden the 25-year-old Clean Water Act in order to prevent the contamination of beaches, fish and drinking water by the year 2005 has earned the praise of OSPIRG and OEC members.

In his announcement on Feb. 19, Clinton proposed spending \$568 million next year for the plan, which would be a 35-percent spending increase. He also proposed earmarking \$100 million for farmers and landowners who attempt to reduce polluted runoff from their property to create buffer zones between their property and rivers.

"Definitely, [The Clean Water Act] needs to be expanded," said Jerome Grzybowski of OSPIRG. He alluded to the problems the Willamette River is facing from agricultural pollutants as a good example of an area that is in need of more funding.

Griffin said she is also enthusiastic over Clinton's proposal.

"If there is more money in the pot ... definitely some would end up in Oregon," she said.

Additionally, Griffin said the OEC is in the process of acting on a statewide level by developing a lobbying agenda for the next state legislative session that would include discussion on the Willamette River.

Group: Advertisement made religious references

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way noted that an ad by the Muslim Student Association, which ran in the Emerald on Feb. 4, was overtly religious and a possible violation of ASUO rules. It advertised "Recitation of the Holy Quran and lectures about Islam," and included the phrase, "In the name of the God most merciful and most gracious." Brewington said she was also concerned with religious language in the group's

materials, which include phrases such as, "In praise of Allah."

Ilyas said the advertisement was not approved by the group's staff and that it didn't represent the nature of the group's events.

Hemingway said it is not the PFC's aim to defund the group.

"We're not emphatically pursuing defunding them," Hemingway said. "They do a lot of great things, but there are legal and fairness issues involved."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Suspects kidnap man, use ATM card

A Eugene man was kidnapped early Wednesday morning by three suspects who escorted him to an ATM machine and had him withdraw money before releasing him.

Police said the man was walking to work when he was approached from behind by two white male suspects near the intersection of 28th Avenue and Lincoln Street.

One suspect was armed with a baseball bat and demanded money. The victim had no money but did have an ATM card. The suspects escorted him to a car near 28th Avenue and Madison Street where a third male suspect was waiting.

The three suspects drove him to the Wells Fargo Bank at 29th Avenue and Portland Street where he withdrew money. He was then released at 24th Avenue and Amazon Parkway.

The first suspect is described as a white male, 28 to 32 years old, 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighing 160 pounds, with shoulder-length straight blond hair, a mustache and wearing a black nylon jacket.

The other two suspects are believed to be white males between 28 and 32 years old. The suspects' vehicle is thought to be a 1970s American-made, mid-size, four-door dark green car, possibly with a loud muffler.

— Jesse Sowa

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