

news Briefs

DIOXIN DATA CONFIRMED, ONCE AGAIN

The National Academies (NA) released a report last week confirming the conclusions of numerous scientific panels that dioxin is a potent cancer-causing chemical. Chlorine-based industries have been stalling the release of the EPA's dioxin re-assessment for 15 years, according to Eugene's Oregon Toxics Alliance (OTA).

Dioxin is a big issue for Lane County and the southern Willamette Valley, says Lisa Arkin of OTA. The Brooks Incinerator 5 miles north of Salem releases dioxin when medical waste and plastics are incinerated, and prevailing winds carry the pollutants south. The Marion County Solid Waste Advisory Council has recommended increasing the maximum amount of incinerator-bound medical waste from 1,500 to 2,500 tons/year by importing medical waste from Washington and other states.

"The problem associated with incinerating medical waste is that it contains large amount of PVC-containing equipment (IV bags and tubing, syringes, patient ID bracelets), which produces dioxin when burned," says Arkin. "Burning medical waste may be convenient ... the old 'out of sight, out of mind' trick. However, after incineration, the resulting dioxin is released into the Willamette Valley air in the form of air emissions and fly ash. These small particles settle in everyone's backyard, on playgrounds, and are deposited into homes — it can never be collected or cleaned up."

David Monk, president of the OTA, says, "Many citizens we have worked with feel that Marion County has not adequately considered the scientific evidence that the dioxin from the Brooks Incinerator poses a true threat to public health."

Dioxin is a known human carcinogen, ac-



tive in the body at very small levels. Scientists at the EPA have long concluded dioxin is highly toxic, but a coalition of industries responsible for generating the toxic byproduct have stalled progress on a 15-year study of the chemical.

COLUMNIST RESPONDS TO RALSTON

Nationally published Hispanic columnist Patrick Osio sent an open letter to Springfield City Councilor Dave Ralston July 13 saying, "Serving as an elected official does not immune you from the ignorance so unfortunately prevalent even for those who graduated from high school with academic honors. It is obvious from some of your remarks in your ill conceived e-mail sent to J. Woodrow that you do not speak Spanish and are totally and blindly ignorant of Mexican or Latin American culture."

Ralston has been the object of both criticism and support following his statements that Hispanics are trying to "take over" the American Southwest. "They want to invade and not assimilate," he wrote. He also supported penalties for landlords and employers who provide housing and jobs to undocumented immigrants, and called for English to become the official language of Springfield.

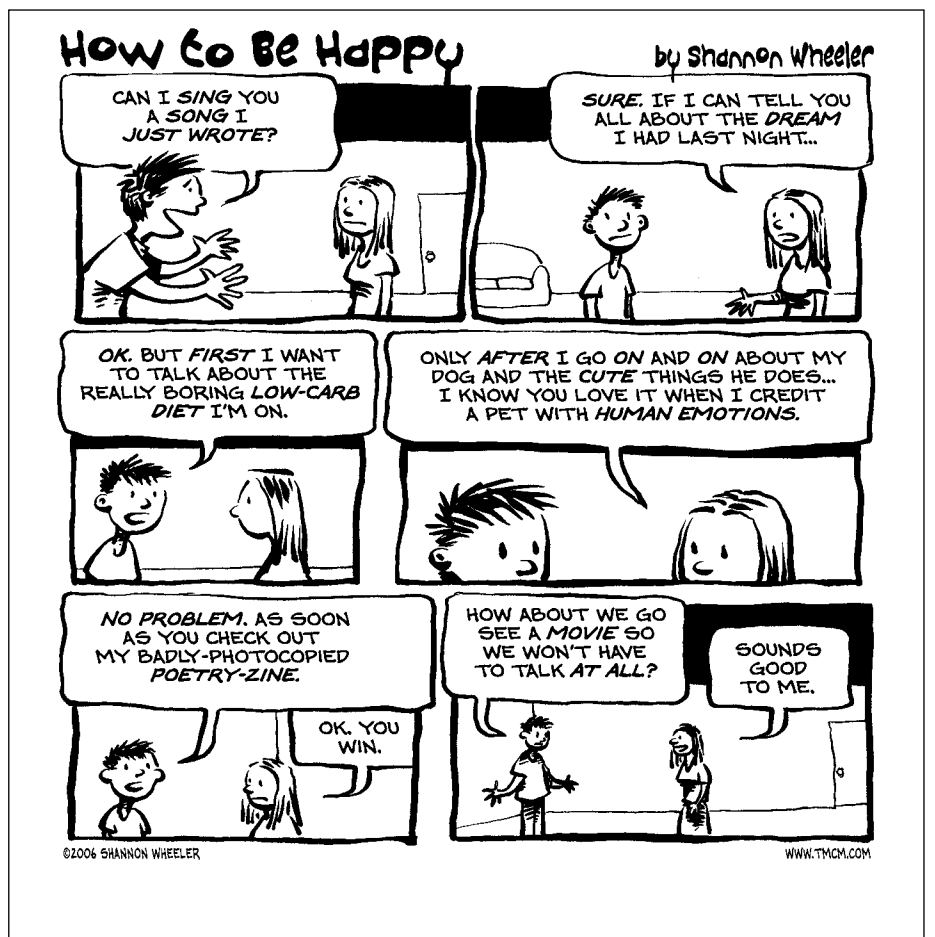
Osio, based in San Diego, writes a regular column called HispanicVista (www.HispanicVista.com), and said Ralston's conclusions about the Hispanic threat were based on inaccurate and racist translations, and "totally asinine" conspiracy theories promoted by hate groups in California.



Patrick Osio

SUMMER GATHERINGS

Summer brings several gatherings for folks interested in building environmentally and socially sustainable communities. The first is a free Community Creations Convergence from 9 am to midnight July 31 at



the Lost Valley Educational Center south of Dexter. The purpose is "building stronger social ties, exchanging wisdom and raising public awareness about the many benefits and joys of intentional living."

For more information, call 937-3351 or email ecology@lostvalley.org

Coming up Aug. 25-27 is an environmental gathering in Eugene that draws people from all over the country. The 10th annual Northwest Permaculture and Bioregional Gathering will be held at the at Dharmalaya Center in the River Road Neighborhood.

The stated purpose of the gathering is "to advance the visions, strategies and skills for living more at peace in the global community, to develop positive human potential and live within what Planet Earth can provide."

Workshop, panel discussion and speaker topics will cover peak oil, U.S. foreign policy, climate change, the excesses of modern life, global peace and justice, the environment, (sub)urban redesign, economic conversion, and simply how to "live closer to home with a smaller eco-logical footprint."

Cost for the weekend, including meals, is \$50. For more information email Jan Spencer at spencerj@efn.org or for updates visit <http://eugenepermacultureguild.org>

Lane County Herbicide Spray Schedule

Weyerhaeuser (744-4600)

Notification No. 50810, aerial spraying on 543 acres near Lorane with 2,4-D LV6; Garlon 4 and 3A; Accord CRT and Concentrate; Arsenal; Escort; Transline; Oust XP and Extra; and Chopper herbicides around the South Fork of the Siuslaw, Russell, Douglas, Letz, and Doe Hollow creeks. No. 50834, aerial spraying on 892 acres with same herbicides as above along Pitney, Squaw, Long Tom, Greenleaf, and Jack Hays creeks near Cheshire, Low Pass, Blachly, Triangle Lake, Greenleaf, and Noti. No. 50835, ground spraying on 1,372 acres using the same herbicides as above near Ferguson, Bear, Squaw, Long Tom, Nulls, Michaels, Greenleaf, Jack Hays, Fish, Hayes, and Lake creeks starting Aug. 1. For more information contact Oregon Department of Forestry (935-2283).

Compiled by Jan Wroncy, Forestland Dwellers 342-8332



If your child is injured and doesn't resume play within a few days, be sure to have the injury checked out.

Treat childhood injuries early

Children enjoy physical activity. Unfortunately, sometimes their fun causes an injury. Michael C. Koester, M.D., recommends that any child who voluntarily restricts physical activity for two days because of pain see a physician. "Often adult orthopedic problems are a result of an injury or repeated injuries that were not diagnosed or treated during childhood."

Dr. Koester, a nonsurgical musculoskeletal physician, specializes in pediatric and adult sports medicine.



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Dr. Mick Koester

Following his pediatric residency at University of Washington, he practiced pediatrics for five years. He recently completed a Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship at Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Koester, who recently joined us, is accepting patients of all ages.