

the higher levels are "not likely to cause adverse health effects." Infants "appear to be more sensitive than adults to the effects of naphthalene," the report said.

The report also states that residents of the River Road, Trainsong and Bethel neighborhoods may experience physical stress from the chemical odors, and it recommends J.H. Baxter take additional steps to continue to reduce the odors it emits. The company has been working to try and improve odors at the plant for several years.

SHINE has not finished analyzing the data on the cancer-causing effects of chemicals released from the plant. An initial report was released in September 2006, but the Oregon State Cancer Registry has provided new data for review. The new report will be released in May 2007, and SHINE will hold a public meeting to discuss the cancer-related findings.

There is a public comment period through May 25 on the current SHINE report. The document may be found at <http://www.lrapa.org/> Comments should be sent to SHINE Oregon Department of Human Services, Health Services 800 NE

Oregon #827 Portland, OR 97232. Call (503) 731-4025 to obtain an email address to send comments electronically. — Camilla Mortensen

SPRAWL VERSUS PARKS

Developers and *The Register-Guard* have taken a stand against new parks until the city allows more urban sprawl.

A pro-sprawl voting block of four city councilors took the position at a meeting April 18. They said they would not vote for acquiring rare pieces of old-growth forests in south Eugene for parks unless the city expanded the urban growth boundary (UGB).

Councilor Mike Clark proposed a motion amendment that would link the park land acquisition to allowing an equal area of sprawl. "Let's make a commitment that we're going to expand the urban growth boundary," he said.

The council voted 5-4 with Mayor Kitty Piercy breaking the tie to reject the parks for

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

HOWIE BROUNSTEIN

"I did a lot of hitchhiking as a teenager," says Howie Brounstein, who lived in the Hollywood Hills at the time. "Oregon was the friendliest place I found." After high school, Brounstein hitchhiked back to study botany and agronomy at OSU. Though he didn't finish a degree, he got a job doing research in the botany department and continued to take classes: "People thought I was a grad student," he says. He still works on occasion as a professional botanist, particularly in surveys of threatened plants, but Brounstein's major interests are herbalism and wildcrafting. As the founder and primary instructor of the Columbines School of Botanical Studies, he has offered classes in wild plant identification, location, harvesting and processing for 23 years. "We're known for our wildcrafting ethics," he stresses.

"We won't let people harvest any plants in class unless they get the OK. If everyone took something, there wouldn't be anything left." You can find Brounstein at booth 84 of the Oregon Country Fair in July. Learn more about Columbines' academic offerings at botanicalstudies.net



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