

TRIBAL RIGHTS GAIN SUPPORT FROM LOCAL CLDC

The Winnemem Wintu tribe of Northern California has tried for years to perform their traditional coming of age ceremony in peace on the McCloud River, but they are often met with drunken boaters who shout and disregard the location's sanctity. This year Eugene's Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC) is trying to help.

During the coming of age ceremony girls from the tribe swim across the river, symbolizing childhood being left behind. On June 30 through July 3, the tribe plans on holding its coming of age ceremony, which is of utmost importance because the future chief will be taking part this year. Members of the traditional matriarchal tribe have tried to reserve a 400-yard stretch of the McCloud River, which stretches alongside the Sacramento River, but have not received an official reservation from the U.S. Forest Service.

The tribe has been left with no other option than to proceed with the ceremony without a blocked-off area. The CLDC has partnered with the tribe to address any issues that may arise during the ceremony this year. "We are advising them regarding civil disobedience that they may end up engaging in," says Lauren Regan, director and staff attorney for the CLDC. "We are doing know-your-rights training, we're organizing legal observers, [and] we're assisting them in dealing with various law enforcement."

The Forest Service excuse for not allowing the river closure, according to Regan, is that the tribe is not a federally registered tribe. She adds, at one point the tribe was offered federal recognition if they built a casino. "They adamantly refused to do that," she says.

The CLDC and other organizations up and down the West Coast are planning to go down and support the tribe on June 30 in solidarity.

"They really have no other option," Regan says. "They call it cultural genocide and they believe if they don't stand up and resist it at this point they will be exterminated completely."

Tribe officials have asked for supporters to use kayaks and boats to block off the 400 yard stretch for this year's ceremony to take place. On June 2 a war dance held by the

tribe went well and a practice run involving a closure of the stretch of riverfront went smoothly.

For those interested in traveling down and lending support, email info@cldc.org

— *Ted Shorack*

SIX AMERICAS OF LITERACY ON CLIMATE

What image comes to mind when you hear the words "global warming"? Ice shelves crashing? Shrinking glaciers? Polar bears stranded on floating ice chunks?

If you answered one of the above, i.e. melting ice, then you chose the most common response among Americans in a poll conducted by Anthony Leiserowitz, director of the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication. Leiserowitz, who received the UO's first Ph.D. in environmental studies in 2003, returned to Eugene this spring to give a talk on "Climate Change in the American Mind" at the Many Nations Long House.

This question is part of a broader study released by Leiserowitz in 2011, "Global Warming's Six Americas," which explores public opinion trends on climate change and the state of Americans' climate literacy. According to the study, overall public concern for climate change has decreased since it peaked in 2007-08. Between 2008 and 2011, there has been a 10 percent drop in public understanding that climate change is human caused and a 13 percent decline in Americans who believe there is a scientific consensus, even though 97 percent of climate scientists agree about climate change. So what gives?

"We have to resist the temptation to point to a single cause," says Leiserowitz. A perfect storm of factors has caused climate change to recede from public consciousness: the economy and unemployment, the "climategate" email scandal, the unusually cold weather since 2008 (think snowpocalypse), an effective denial industry, and a drop in media coverage. According to Leiserowitz, since 2007 there has been a two-thirds drop in newspaper coverage and a 90 percent drop in nightly network news coverage.

"Most Americans don't read the peer-reviewed literature," says Leiserowitz. "If the media doesn't report this issue, it's literally out of sight and out of mind."

He has also identified a new defining factor. "Americans don't speak with a single voice on this issue," he says. The study polled more than 1,000 people nationwide and found that the nation falls into six categories:

Alarmed (12 percent): Those who believe climate change

is happening, it's human caused, and it's an urgent problem.

Concerned (27 percent): People who believe climate change is happening, it's human caused, but it's not urgent.

Cautious (25 percent): The cautious wonder if climate change is human-caused or natural, if it's a serious risk or exaggerated. They are also the most willing to change their minds.

Disengaged (10 percent): The group that has heard of global warming but knows nothing about it. "Knowledge is one of the main barriers keeping them from being engaged," says Leiserowitz.

Doubtful (15 percent): They don't believe that global warming is happening, and if they do, it's a natural part of the climate system.

Dismissive (10 percent): People who are firmly convinced that climate change is not happening.

"Each one needs to be engaged in their own terms," says Leiserowitz. "If you don't know who you're trying to reach and what they know, what they don't know, and what their values are, it's like trying to throw darts in a crowded room with the lights off."

Want to know which "America" you fall into? Take the quiz at <http://uw.kqed.org/climatesurvey>

— *Alexandra Notman*

NESTLÉ WANTS YOUR WATER

The giant multi-national food company, Nestlé, has its eye on Cascade Locks, a small town east of Portland, for its first water-bottling plant in the Pacific Northwest. But environmental watchdog groups and locals are having none of it.

Oregon has had an uneasy relationship with bottled water in recent years. The UO has flirted with the idea of banning plastic water bottles on campus, and Pacific University did so in 2011. The UO's Take Back the Tap campaign has resulted in drinking fountains with spigots for refilling reusable water bottles and a campaign to give out free reusable bottles.

But the proposed Nestlé plant brings up other issues as well, such as public access to water and whether private companies should be able to own and control large amounts of Oregon's water supply. This is an issue Lane County residents face as well as climate changes makes water even more valuable. Willamette Water Co., a private company, has been trying to get the rights to 22 million gallons a day of water out of Eugene's water source, the McKenzie River.

The proposed Columbia Gorge plant at Cascade Locks would draw water from Oxbow Springs and could potentially

books on the topic.

He works in pursuit of changing policy to mirror conscious, health-centric lawmaking decisions. In California, his work contributed toward gaining legal rights for people exposed to pesticides.

In addition to city of Eugene, sponsors of this local event include Lane Coalition for Healthy Active Youth and PeaceHealth. State of Oregon sponsors are made up of the Education and Outreach Committee of the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association, 1000 Friends of Oregon, Oregon Environmental Council and the Oregon Transportation and Growth Management Program.

"It's a very pertinent discussion to be having," says Harding, "to shape how our cities grow in a way that is going to benefit our public health in the best way that we can."

Jackson is from California, where his research on biomonitoring chemical levels in community environments and his influential work in policy is receiving growing attention.

To learn more about Jackson and the event, visit www.friends.org/DesigningHealthyCommunities or the Speaker Series' Facebook Event page, "Designing Healthy Communities."

— *Stacey M. Hollis*



Dr. Richard Jackson

SHAPING HOW CITIES GROW IN HEALTHY WAYS

Noted scientist, public speaker and professor Dr. Richard Jackson will be visiting cities throughout Oregon this summer to address the relationship between human health and the environmental conditions we've created in our cities and suburbs. Jackson's first stop in the 2012 Healthy Communities Speaker Series is Eugene's downtown Public Library Tuesday, June 19. A reception with the speaker begins at 5 pm, followed by a lecture and discussion from 5:45 to 7 pm.

"It's very exciting, very timely," says Terri Harding of Eugene's Planning Division. "He's really bridging the fields of planning transportation and public health in a way," she says, "that is kind of a call to action to us working on these things." Harding acts as the event's contact for those interested in more detail about the occasion.

Jackson is also professor and chair within the School of Public Health at UCLA. He lectures on linkages between environmental conditions and human health — with an emphasis on the "built" environment being one such factor with a major influence on our health — and he has published