

County Court hears objection to building inspection policies

By MARY ANN CERULLO

Building inspection policies on industrial development permits was the subject of discussion between Harry Kennison, manager of Kinzua Corporation and Morrow

County Court last Wednesday, March 7.

Kennison voiced an objection on the new cogeneration plant being inspected under the same building codes as a structure with public access.

The county building inspector follows the state of Oregon's policies on building codes, County Planner Deane Seeger told Kennison, and according to the state, the cogeneration plant qualifies under three classes: a building holding flammable material; a power plant; and a cogeneration plant.

Kennison objected to the first classification, pointing out that the flammable material will not be stored inside but outside of the building and conveyed in to be burned.

"When the public is involved I can understand (the policy) but the public isn't even going to be allowed near it (the plant)," stated Kennison.

Seeger explained that the county building inspector

must inspect the cogeneration plant with the same policy as the Port of Morrow's proposed public dock on the Columbia River or the county could be accused of playing favorites.

Seeger told Kennison that he would review all building codes for cogeneration plants.

To close the discussion, John Schaffer, an Irrigation builder, inquired why the inspection fee is the same for him as for Hermiston builders when he is able to build a house for \$28 per square ft. and Hermiston builders get \$40 per square ft.

The court agreed to look into it.

In other business the court considered the following:

— reviewed a proposed agreement with the state of

Oregon on permits issued for overloaded and overweight trucks traveling over a specified county road. Bombing Range Road was suggested as the specified road.

— appointed Louie Eng of Lexington as assistant weighmaster for the county. Don Ball is weighmaster.

— discussed a state bid for a four-wheel drive Blazer for the Sheriff's Department to be used in mountain patrol.

— moved to purchase the vehicle for \$10,913.

— moved to allow LoRayne Bowman, administrative assistant, and two other county employees to attend administrative seminars beginning March 29.

— appointed John Ripple of

Lexington to the Mental Health Board.

— accepted a bid proposal from Ross Mellor of Prosser, Wash. as appraiser for the Lexington Airport Runway Project. The appraisal fee proposal was \$4,000.

Pendleton Workers' Comp. office to close

The Pendleton office of the Field Services Division, Workers' Compensation Department, will close April 1, the department has announced. Functions of the office, which covers Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Walla Walla counties, will be transferred to the division's Bend office.

Troedson Grant-in-Aid applications available

Application forms for the Carl W. Troedson Grant-in-Aid program are being distributed to the offices of the three high schools in Morrow County for completion by senior students,

announced the Morrow Co. School District.

Students who have previously held Troedson Grants-in-Aid are eligible to apply for renewals of their grants. Students who are receiving Troedson grants during the current year are being sent a direct mailing of the application forms. Application forms are also available in the Morrow County School District Office in Lexington.

The deadline for completing and submitting applications is Friday, May 4.

"A book is like a garden carried in the pocket," Arab proverb

The Fifth Quarter

Sports by Mike Oths

Hooray for the Hoyas! Once again Western basketball fans can line up behind their No. One seeded team — Georgetown.

As most of you know by now, the N.C.A.A. Basketball pairings have been released, and the Georgetown Hoyas, from Washington, D.C., are the top seed in the West Regional. It's hard to fault the selection committee, however. There aren't any seeded teams in the West Regional because there aren't any Western seeded teams, period.

Twelve of the top 16 teams are from the east of the Mississippi, and the rest (Tulsa, U.T.E.P., Arkansas and Houston) are all from the Southwest. Even conceding the possible argument that Washington, Oregon State, and/or Nevada-Las Vegas could've been seeded instead of Indiana, Duke and/or Wake Forest, now is probably as good a time as any for the now-familiar, "Why the West is Down" dialogue. (After the tournament it's usually a touchy subject.)

Regardless of the seedings, the fact remains that only seven Western teams are in the tournament. Of those seven, two are hardly serious contenders but are concessions to today's craze to admit conference champions (U of San Diego, Nevada-Reno). Why is it that only seven Western teams are among the 53 selected for the tournament? Why the decline in Western basketball? I have an answer that won't be too popular, but is true nonetheless — There isn't really a decline in basketball in the West, it's never been very good to start with.

It is not a coincidence that people noticing the weakness of the West has paralleled the end of the dynasty at UCLA. As long as the Bruins were cleaning house every year, there were two ready-made arguments in favor of Western hoop. The first was that until somebody beat the Bruins, the West could lay claim to supremacy. The second was that the "other" teams in the West weren't really weak; they were just overshadowed by the wizards from Westwood. In truth, however, the only other programs which have come close to consideration as a "perennial" power can be named on three fingers: Oregon State (but only for about five years), Brigham Young and Jerry Tarkanian (first at Long Beach and now at Nevada-Las Vegas). Before they dropped their program, the Dons of San Francisco could also fit into that group.

By contrast, basketball tradition in the East and Midwest can be traced to at least two-dozen schools. Part of the disparity can be traced to tradition, part can be traced to the number of youngsters who grow up with basketballs under their pillows. Part of it can also be traced to strong conference tradition.

The Pac-10 is probably the conference that needs to lead the way to shoring up the prestige of Western basketball. Although the W.A.C. and the P.C.A.A. (Fresno, UNLV, etc.) have recently made noises about being stronger than the Pac-10, the Pac-10 is the only one of the conferences with a strong enough national reputation to earn serious respect for Western roundball. If the Pac-10 is ever to break out of its slump, the time is now. With the hiring of dynamic coaches Lute Olson, Don Monson and Tom Davis at schools which are notoriously weak links in the conference chain, the Pac-10 has a chance to lead the West into the modern era in basketball. To do so, the league needs to create depth among its strong teams, to create an atmosphere where anybody can beat anybody. As long as they still cut down the nets when the second-place team (Oregon) beats the fourth-place team (UCLA) on its own floor, and as long as one team can run up a 50-game winning streak against another (UCLA vs Cal), then that parity can't be achieved. Once the parity arrives, only then will we know if the lack of TV exposure and lack of enough good players to go around will forever doom the West to overall mediocrity on the hardwood.

Early N.C.A.A. observations: Look for Fresno State to give Houston all they can handle on Saturday; if the Oregon State game is on, watch WVU's coach, Gale Catlett, brought to you straight from the Digger Phelps school of sideline-histrionics; be sure to watch America's team: the Dayton Flyers, 8:30 Thursday night. Candidates for early upset: Purdue, Maryland (by OSU) and Wake Forest (by Kansas). Longshot for the title: Tulsa.

NOTICE TO WATER USERS

Winter packing may now be removed from meters. They will be read this month after using minimums throughout the winter. All gallonage used over the minimum will be reflected on your March billing. Therefore, please expect an increase on your next statement.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION, we remind city sewer users to avoid putting rubber and plastic items, gunny sacks, etc. into our sewer system. These items clog the sewer lines causing sewage to back up, perhaps into your home.

Earl Papineau
City Crew Foreman

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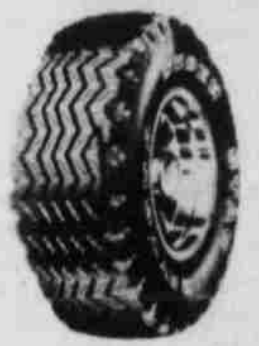
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