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Four Executive Governors of the Age of Enlightenment visited Eugene Thursday to expound upon a recent "Breakthrough" of human potential, wherein transcendental meditation can enable persons to fly

across rooms, make themselves taller or smaller and make themselves invisible. More than 100 persons attended their program.

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## Meditation crusaders advocate human potential 'breakthrough'

More than 20 years ago Maharishi Mahesh Yogi began to expound on the Science of Creative Intelligence, popularly known as Transcendental Meditation (TM). Now over 600,000 persons reportedly practice TM in the United States alone. However, leaders of the movement have announced it is about to take off — literally — on a new course.

Four Executive Governors of the Age of Enlightenment were in Eugene Thursday to present a "breakthrough in human potential" that enables people to fly across rooms, make themselves invisible or make themselves smaller or taller. More than 100 people paid \$5 each to hear Peter Lyda, Joe Repp, Henry Eckstein and Gary Gill describe how the breakthrough was achieved.

Meditation allows the practitioner to reach what Lyda termed a "state of least excitation, or pure consciousness." He said this state is paralleled in physical science by a "quantum mechanical vacuum ground state." Since the states are closely analogous, TM leaders reasoned it should be possible to use TM techniques to generate external physical manifestations, such as levitation.

Since the theory was clear, Lyda said, the problem was how to

utilize the level of least excitation without at the same time destroying it.

Repp then described how teachers of TM met at Maharishi European Research University in Switzerland in the fall of 1975 and began to develop the new techniques.

Story and Photo  
By Pete Shepherd  
Of the Emerald

"We were extending the natural ability of the imagination," Repp said. "We can all form a clear thought of an apple, but we were able to extend that to the point where we could eat the apple, experience its taste and feel satisfied afterwards."

Repp said the teachers found the extension of mind-body coordination made easier by the use of ritualized patterns of thought called "suras." Using the "flying sura," the participants first experienced a faint vibration. After a week or so of meditation, the body begins to wiggle "very naturally," and then it unexpectedly moves two to three feet.

While meditation generally is practiced with eyes closed, Repp noted the first "flights" were often very entertaining and "you couldn't help but peek."

Repp described some of the suras available, including ones for friendliness, compassion, strength, calmness, knowledge of bodily systems, seeing objects hidden from view and knowing anything.

When asked why they did not demonstrate any of the extraordinary skills allegedly available through the new techniques, the governors said they would like to but had to be careful not to bring

unwanted notoriety on the movement. Repp said the focus should not be on the skills themselves. "The sense of bliss was tremendously more important than the actual flying," he emphasized.

Eckstein then summarized tests performed at the movement's Swiss university. In addition to changes in electroencephalogram brainwave coherence patterns during the performance of a given exercise, Eckstein said researchers found lasting increases in creativity as measured on "all creativity scales." Independent researchers at Harvard and UCLA have found reduced blood pressure and oxygen consumption in practitioners of "old-fashioned" TM.

The final governor to speak, Gill, described the impact of TM and the new formulas in more grandiose terms. "When five percent of the population begins to practice TM," he said, "the quality of life for all will become ideal."

With that as a goal, Gill said he was delighted to make the program available to the public. He invited members of the audience to "become citizens of the Age of Enlightenment."

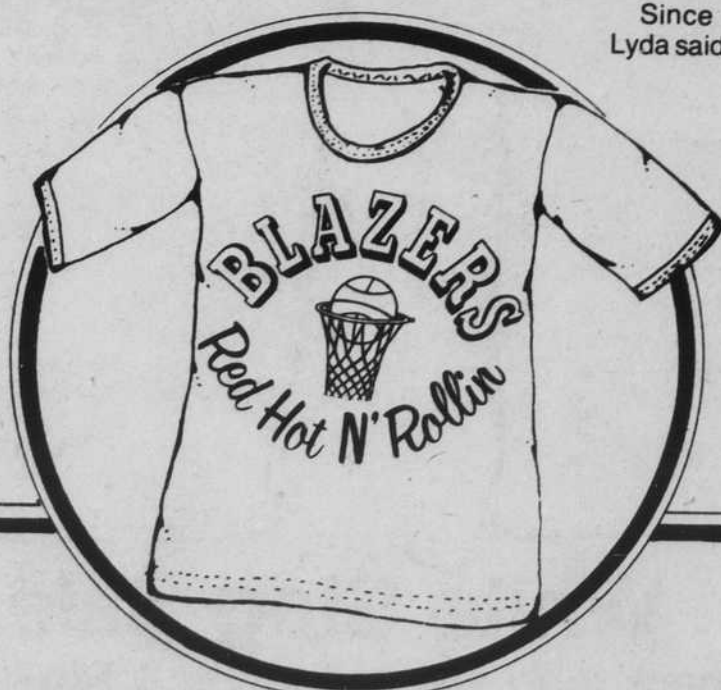
But citizenship is not cheap. To reach the flying sura level, it would first be necessary to have paid for a course in the basic meditation technique. Then one must pay \$265 for attendance at a week-long residence course where the more advanced suras are learned. Additional weeks may be required at the discretion of one's teacher.

Persons interested in more information or desiring to register for a residence course held in Portland soon should contact the Eugene World Plan Center for the TM program at 343-8738.

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## Literary awards given

Two literary pieces which have appeared in Northwest Review, the University's literary magazine, have been selected as 1977 prize winners in a competition sponsored by the Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines, a national nonprofit organization that aids literary magazines.

Selected among the 10 national award winners were John Woods' poem "Why Adam and Eve Came Sadly to Love," appearing in the Fall-Winter issue of Northwest Review, and Shannon Applegate Mueller's "The Applegate Family," published in the Spring issue.

The awards bring cash prizes of \$300 to the individual authors and companion prizes of \$200 each to the magazine.

Northwest Review was the only publication honored with two award winners. More than 270 writers representing 177 literary magazines were entered in the awards judging.