

Clear the air

There's more tragedy than irony in the fact that the open grass fields burned in Oregon each summer are cleared in the same way the North American Indians cleared these same fields centuries ago. The tragedy is that in these times such blatant air pollution is unforgivable. The irony is that by this time you'd think someone would have found a better way.

The search has to date been fairly unsuccessful. Ideas such as mobile field burning machines, alternative crops, various alternative methods for field sanitation and burning only on alternative years have been unsuccessful or viewed with disdain by the grass seed growers. And the seed growing concerns and sympathizers were powerful enough in the 1977 Legislature to keep their allowable acreage for burning up to 195,000 acres last summer.

That has disturbed Eugeneans no end. Due to weather conditions, much of the smoke produced by the field burning in the Willamette Valley is blown toward Eugene, causing some violations of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air quality standards in the past. This year, the burners are arguing that with intensive smoke management and coordination, not much smoke penetrated the Eugene area. But in late July, field burning smoke entering the Eugene area was reported to be the heaviest in a few years.

That means that the smoke management efforts, which are based on weather predictions, are relatively unpredictable. And the Eugene legislators and citizens are not too happy about that.

Now, the city is planning to take the field burning issue to court to get judicial rulings on field burning complaints. In addition, the city may try to get a ruling from the EPA about the possible violation of air quality standards.

That is the right move for the city to make. In the Legislature, no amount of screaming by Lane County legislators, lobbyists or citizens seems strong enough to break the votes of the field burning legislators and their supporters. Also, the field burning lobby was powerful enough in Salem that the Eugene effort was equivalent to stopping a waterfall with bare hands.

It's high time the city took the case to an objective arena where the field burning issue may be viewed not on whether an economic interest wins over clean air, but on clear air vs. foul air. For too long, the field burners have existed in a vacuum of non-restrictions. They have found themselves in a rare position of being powerful enough to isolate themselves from the concerns of Eugeneans as well as other air-breathers in the Willamette Valley. And that includes everyone.

Field burning must be stopped or cut down to the point where pollution in the Willamette Valley is minimized. The 1977 Legislature didn't do that job. The city has our complete support in finding a way to cut open burning. The EPA or the courts are just the place to clear the air.

Off the Wally Lottery not as bad as '75

Lotteries are so much fun. I remember reading about one in a play one time, where the "winner" had the distinction of being the one stoned to death by fellow town folk.



Wally Benson
Emerald Editor

The ASUO athletic ticket lottery isn't quite that bad, but many people undoubtedly die a slow death while it goes on. I know I did, at least until the numbers were posted and I checked to see that mine was 1,282. Even though I had promised a friend my ticket at cost, it still was nice to know that I had once again come out a winner in the lottery, something I've been fortunate enough to experience very time they have conducted it.

But my luck quickly changed. I found out late Sunday evening that the afternoon's lottery would be voided due to the fact that the Athletic Department still had a bunch of the cards from registration locked in its vault. (You'd think they'd have taken enough seats away from the students already.) This meant, of course, that many people weren't included in the first computer run which determined the lottery numbers, so the whole process would have to be done again.

Since the first time around I had a number under 4,000, "winning" me the opportunity to shell out \$34 for a ticket, this lottery retake represented an obvious risk. Surely my perfect mark in these things would see me through.

No way. I wasn't even close. From 1,282 the first time around I soared to a whopping 7,381 the second time, a number which was worse even than ASUO Pres. Gary Feldman's 7,335.

Though I didn't get a number anywhere near low enough to buy a ticket, I still enjoy the lottery as one of the most suspenseful and interest-stimulating events the ASUO conducts each year. Last year's lottery went off rather smoothly, so it would have been too much to

ask for this year's to, also. But if you felt inconvenienced by the Athletic Department's hungry vault, count your blessings. That mishap is minor when compared to the fall of 1975, when the Great Ticket Fiasco took place.

The problems then were amazing. The ASUO Executive and the Incidental Fee Committee couldn't get it straight on who would handle the lottery. It eventually fell to Jim Davis, then ASUO vice-president, who left only verbal instructions as to how the tickets were to be distributed and promptly took off for San Francisco.

Was he surprised when he got back. Not as many days were allowed for the favored 4,000 to buy their tickets as Davis had instructed, and students stood in long, rainy lines until after 5 p.m. one day only to be turned away by the Athletic Department cashiers, who closed up shop promptly at 5. Someone quickly came up with the idea to give "coupons" to those standing in line, which would allow them to buy the ticket the next day. But some went home, thoroughly soaked and discouraged, and never got their coupons. The next day the ASUO office was deluged with complaints, the end result being the "freezing" of the remaining 79 tickets until the ASUO could figure out how to right the wrongs already committed.

(To complicate things, a counterfeit athletic ticket scheme was brewing, and, although it proved unsuccessful, it did add another element of excitement to an already chaotic affair.)

The remaining 79 tickets finally ended up being sold on a first-come, first-served basis. And the ASUO learned a lesson about how to conduct a lottery.

The way that lottery was handled was best summed up by Lois Lindsay in an analysis she wrote in the Oct. 29, 1975 Emerald. "Gazed at in retrospect," wrote Lindsay, who was covering the ASUO at the time, "the ASUO's handling of the recent athletic ticket lottery seems little better than a fiasco. At best, it bears the marks of bureaucratic inefficiency, indecision and internal confusion."

So we really should consider ourselves lucky this year, even those of us winners who all too quickly became losers. At least the mistake was caught before any tickets were sold and the ASUO kept the confusion to a minimum.

And none of us will be stoned to death. Stoned, maybe, but not to death.

opinion

A call for help from Iranian students

On Dec. 10 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted by a vote of 44-0-8 the now famous Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Among the 44 states voting in favor of its adoption was Iran under the Pahlavi regime.

This regime originated with Reza Khan who was deposed in 1941 by the British and replaced by his son the present dictator. He was obliged in 1953 to flee Iran in the face of the determination of the Iranian people led by Dr. Musadiq's government. But later, the notorious CIA plot enabled the Shah to return, and ever since he has been engaged, in the consolidation and expansion of his power, at the expense of freedom.

The Democrat Administration of Kennedy did not eye the Shah's utterly undemocratic and unpopular regime to be stable in the long-run. Therefore, he pushed for reforms in Iran. This "reform" program, the backbone of which was "land reform," came to be what the Shah calls "the white revolution" or "the revolution of the Shah and the people." White, because allegedly no blood was spilt. Prog-

ressive figures and forces, among whom Ayatollah Khomeini, the true leader of Iranian masses, was the most vocal, opposed such neo-colonialistic reforms and openly condemned Shah's puppet nature and exposed his prehistoric regime equipped with barbaric torture chambers staffed and directed by the CIA and the Zionist state of Israel. He was arrested in Qum, June 4, 1963. Within several hours crowds of protesters, carrying his portraits, poured into the streets and by 10 a.m. the Shah ordered "shoot to kill!" During the three days of violent rioting, which soon spread to many other cities, thousands of unarmed protesters were killed and wounded. M. Zonis, an American scholar who was an eyewitness to the opening of fire by the troops, puts the estimate of the dead close to 10,000.

During the 1963-1971 period, many revolutionary groups were destroyed in their beginning. As 1970 arrived, on the one hand, armed struggle began and gave the whole movement a new revolutionary momentum, and on the other, the Shah was chosen as the U.S. local watchdog in the Gulf

area (Nixon Doctrine). This was the CIA-Pentagon joint mandate, but how could the American Shah carry out this imperialist mission in face of the people's militant opposition? The solution was to be found in utmost repression. In order to further organize and systematize the repressive organs of the Shah's regime, the CIA Middle East branch was transferred to Tehran in 1973. The Shah has preserved his fundamental allegiance to the United States but at the same time diversified his foreign patronage to a remarkable degree. He enjoys good relations with both the Soviet Union and China! The gods of Kremlin, contrary to all of their lies in regard to "support of the oppressed masses," do nothing to embarrass the Shah, while China has for more than four years fulsomely proclaimed its support for Iran's domineering policies in the Gulf.

Now, because of the heavy pressures of the people's struggle, it is no longer possible for the Shah to uphold the simulation of "democracy." He finally came, imposing a single dictatorial party from the top. The new party on principle includes all Iranians. Ap-

plication for membership is not necessary, for every Iranian is naturally a member, unless choosing not to be. In the latter case, one has two options: either one has to leave the country forever, or go to jail!

A very direct consequence of this new maneuver was to bring Savak into the open. Now Savak (the Shah's secret police) can freely ask every Iranian whether he or she believes in Shah's phony principles or not. Their harassment, arrest and torture has gone beyond conceivable bounds. Savak is getting more savage every day and its domain of activities reach beyond Iran and it "operates" inside the U.S. and European countries! Thousands of innocent people, young and old, men and women are sending their cry from Shah's dungeon and are asking your support. In response to the appeal of the "Organization for the Defense of Human Rights in Iran" and "Muslim Youth Organization" there will be a hunger strike in front of the United Nations and all major cities in the U.S. and Europe and the Middle East today, Oct. 7, 1977. In conjunction

with this occasion, there will be a one day hunger strike held at the EMU. We ask all concerned people to help us in exposing the barbaric regime of the Shah by sending a letter or telegram to the Iranian Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the United Nations in New York and demand:

- Return of the great Mujahid Ayatollah Khomeini exiled in Iraq since 1963 to Iran.
- Free Ayatollah Taleghani, Ayatollah Muntazari, Mohandes Ezzatollah Sahabi, Mohandes Lutfullah Meisami, and Hashemi Rafsanjani.
- Freedom for international observers to visit Shah's prisons.
- Oblige the Iranian regime to respect the Human Rights Declaration.
- All closed door military and nonmilitary courts to be immediately dissolved.

Also, there will be an open discussion on "Human Rights in Iran," today at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU, room to be posted. Everybody is invited.

Mobarez Fathe
Iranian Youth Organization

Friday, October 7, 1977