

Iranians and sympathizers end hunger protest today

By TOM WOLFE
Of the Emerald

About 60 Iranians and sympathizers will end a hunger strike at noon today in support of protests going on in other American cities and in Iran against repressive political practices by Shah Mohammed Pahlavi.

While about 400,000 Iranians marched through Tehran, Iran's capital, about 85 Iranians and sympathizers showed their support of that protest Saturday night with a candlelight procession through downtown Eugene.

Similar marches occurred in Portland and Seattle.

"We can feel our spirit growing," says a member of the group who identifies himself as Ali. "Many people we have never seen before joined us tonight.

"They know there is something wrong going on even if they don't understand the nature of the shah's activities."

The hunger strike and march commemorate the holy days of Tasoua and Ashura, the end of the 10-day Moslem period of mourn-

ing the self-flogging rites that occurred in 680 A. D. after the assassination of Iman Hussain, grandson of Mohammad, and founder of the Shiite sect.

"As the news from home gets more discouraging we are picking up our pace," says one member. "We plan to visit churches, associations and Saturday Market to explain to people what's going on."

"Let us remember those who have given their lives already. Let us remember those hundreds of brothers and sisters who are facing bullets and machine guns. Let us pray to Allah."

In a talk and prayer session with members of the Iranian Muslim Association and participants in the march, an IMA spokesperson told participants of "the battles our brothers and sisters are facing back home."

"Let us remember those who have given their lives already. Let us remember those hundreds of brothers and sisters who are facing bullets and machine guns. Let us pray to Allah."

The speaker reminded the crowd that "every nation has struggled to overcome oppression." Solidarity and success comes when people are mobilized.

"But we are not an imported movement. We are not communist; we are not Marxist; we are not eastern, and we are not western. Women, children, old people, intellectuals, religious leaders and peasants have all joined the Islamic movement.

"They act from the heritage and courage of our culture."

In Iran, reports said nearly half the marchers were women and children. They marched in defiance of martial law that prohibits any such demonstration.

Troops and tanks caroused through the city, and especially in the northern quarter near a group of luxury apartments inhabited mostly by foreigners and Shah's palace.

Saturday army troops opened fire on demonstrators in two Iranian cities, killing 29. No killings were reported in Tehran although the army warned it would promptly open fire if the procession lost its "peaceful and religious character.

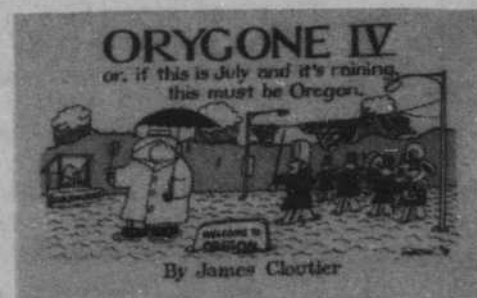
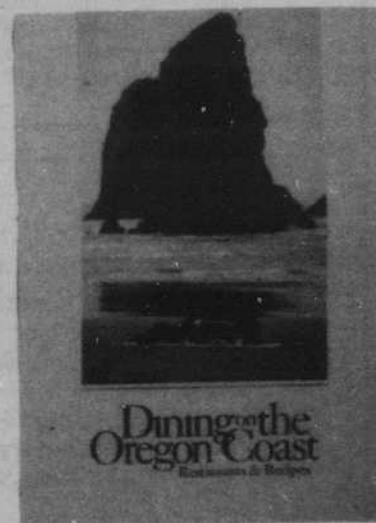
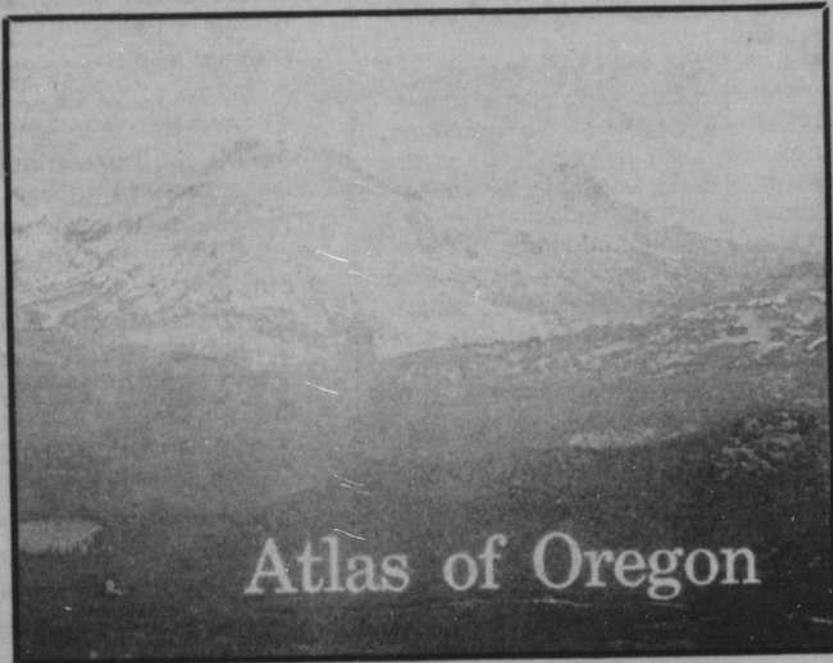
To date estimates of the number of demonstrators killed by the military range up to 2,000.



photo by Becky Young

An Iranian spokesperson thanks fellow countrymen and sympathizers for participating in a three-day hunger strike for the Islamic Movement. He also urged that no one forget the sacrifices already made for the cause. "Every nation has struggled to overcome oppression," he said.

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