



catherine segner

of environmental concern

The enormous amount of money the Washington Public Power Supply System has invested in nuclear plants being built at the Hanford Reservation near Richland, Wash., has been increased \$3.5 million by the purchase of fraudulent uranium mining claims.

WPPSS paid Fremont Energy Corp. of Denver \$2 million for the claims in the Red Desert area of Wyoming, according to a copyrighted story in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The consortium of public utilities has spent about \$1.5 million in public bond

money to correct problems with the claims.

WPPSS had been warned about the mining claims prior to the purchase, the story said, and later it was found Fremont did not actually own the claims.

A rule governing the spraying season for herbicides in Oregon forests may be expanded when the Forest Practices Committee, an advisory committee to the state Board of Forestry, meets Jan. 31 in Salem.

The rule states herbicides may be applied "only in accordance

with currently recognized limitations of temperature, humidity, wind and other factors specified by the state forester."

The committee will discuss whether those limitations should be spelled out more specifically. It will also discuss whether or not to recommend a monitoring system to detect herbicides in state waterways.

The meeting starts at 9 a.m. in the Forestry dept. office at 2600 State St., Salem.

Air standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for smog in urban areas may soon

be lowered. The agency plans to raise the allowable level from .08 to .12 micrograms per cubic meter of air.

This increase of 50 percent is a result of anti-inflation sentiment within business and government circles. Pressure from the auto and oil industries to lower pollution standards in order to cut back on anti-smog equipment has likely been another influence on EPA's tentative decision.

Diesel-powered cars are coming off assembly lines in droves these days. But since such vehicles emit between 30 and 70 times

as many particulates into the air as gasoline-powered cars equipped with catalysts, auto makers are already running into trouble with EPA's particulate standard to go into effect in 1981.

The proposed standard will allow no more than .6 grams per mile in 1981 and no more than .2 grams per mile after 1983.

General Motors says the standard is "unrealistic," and that it cannot meet federal mileage requirements and simultaneously meet the particulate emission standard.

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Interest in Chinese surges

By MARY FORAN
Of the Emerald

Renewed national interest in China and a new program to exchange Chinese and American students, scientists and scholars has interest in the study of Chinese language and culture surging again, says Chinese Prof. Angela Jung, head of the East Asian Languages Department.

"Watergate or not, Nixon really opened the 'China Gate,'" says Jung, who has watched interest in Chinese ebb and flow through the years as United States' relations with China have shifted in the winds of political change.

Nixon paved the way for a new era in Chinese-American relations, says Jung. Without that preamble, Carter would have not have dared to invite Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-p'ing to the White House this week, she says.

Teng's impending visit to

Washington, D.C., and a new exchange program opening China for the first time in 30 years to American college students, scientists and scholars, has Jung expecting an upsurge in enrollment this year, she says.

Townpeople and students interested in traveling to China, some without any background in Chinese, have been calling for information, says Jung.

To accommodate this new surge of interest, Jung says that accelerated language classes and evening classes may be offered this spring for those interested in some "instant Chinese culture" before they travel to Peking.

Mini-courses in Chinese brushwork and Cantonese conversation are also offered. Jung says that if students are really interested, a beginning Chinese class also may be offered. It's now too late to get in the first year sequence class. Interested persons should contact the East Asian Languages Department soon, says Jung.

Jung remembers large classes of up to 50 students interested in the then open China when she was a graduate teaching fellow at the University of Washington in 1947-48. Then the 1949 revolu-

tion closed China to the West, and student interest gradually dwindled since there was no way to go there, says Jung.

Interest in Chinese picked up in the 1950s because of the Korean War, says Jung. After that, it went "downhill" until Nixon's trip to China in 1972. "Like a pressure-cooker, the lid was on so long everything rushes out," says Jung of China in those years.

After Nixon's trip, Jung had 84 first-year students. Since then, beginning student enrollment has dropped to 34 for this last fall. "It's understandable," she says. "Why invest the time if there's no outlet?"

Graduate students, natural scientists, social scientists and humanists can apply for year-long fellowships or research grants to China, beginning as early as June. Some scholars have already arrived in China, says Jung, and Chinese students are expected at Portland State University and Oregon State Universities.

The application deadline is Feb. 9, so Jung urges interested scholars to contact her immediately. Three years of Chinese is a prerequisite for most of the grants and fellowships managed by the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20418.

"There will be exchanges every year," says Jung. Some of her former students are planning to apply, she says.

When the exchange program was first announced in the fall, says Jung, China was mistakenly referred to as 'Taiwan' by the University News Bureau and the Emerald, prompting many calls to Jung.

TODAY'S AGENDA

3:30 Music Steering Comm
4:30 Rec Folk Dance
5:30 University Theatre
6:30 Women in Transition

Tuesday Jan 23:

OSPIRG, Gerontology
Assn. Jewish Student Union, Emerald
Women in Communication

Incidental Fee Committee Budget Hearings

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