

Doctor witnessed Bikini blasts

Exposure to radiation is like "being dead but still walking around, feeling rather well — for awhile," according to David Bradley, an army physician who monitored nuclear bomb tests in the South Pacific.

His task there was "to keep 42,000 members of the task force from being fried in radioactivity," Bradley said Thursday in a speech sponsored by the Faculty Arms Control Group.

Bradley was assigned to the 1940 Bikini atoll atom bomb tests — a government experiment which tested ships that surrounded the exploding bomb, to see what structural changes were needed to make them withstand radiation.

"It didn't take any clairvoyance to see those ships as Seattle, San Francisco, New York..." he said.

Bradley's job was to prevent sailors and soldiers from getting excessive amounts of radiation when task force members went back onto the almost-destroyed ships to take inventory.

"So much of our work was guesswork, and we

struggled to keep people unhurt," Bradley said.

Task force members were required to be 20 miles away and to look away after the first momentary flash, which is stronger than the sun at its surface, he said.

"I couldn't get over how beautiful the whole thing was — and, of course, how deadly," he said.

The 165 inhabitants of the island were moved and have never been able to go back because of the lack of vegetation.

"It's the official policy of our government to say that Bikini Island inhabitants can have radiation poisoning, and Hiroshima citizens can have leukemia and cancer and deformed children. But good American soldiers do not get affected by radiation," Bradley said.

Speaking of the arms race between the U.S. and Russia, Bradley asked rhetorically, "At what point does some screwball set off something, and it replicates itself into something much larger?"

"Once it gets going, it may be an awful long way back."

Candidates outline county priorities

Two candidates for North Eugene's county commissioners' seat outlined their priorities Thursday in Eugene.

Speaking at the Rubicon Society's weekly luncheon, Ted Kelly and city council member John Ball expressed their concern for the condition of Lane County government and proposed several changes.

Ball said Lane County government has lost its credibility since 1977 when commissioners fired the county administrator.

"County commissioners are not supposed to be administrative officials. They should be policy-makers," Ball said.

He said his first obligation would be more emphasis on citizen's access to public services and less attention to the convenience of people who work for these agencies.

Ball said budget planning and management

could be improved and he recommended a restrictive charter to limit spending in good years and establish "rainy day" funds with the extra revenue.

By identifying inefficiencies in the area of financial management, services could be restored to senior citizens, veterans and those in need of public health services without increasing taxes, Ball said.

"County commissioners must become more involved in financial planning. This position could be very powerful in creating jobs and diversifying the economy," Ball said.

Kelly agrees that for Lane County to prosper, the county commissioners must take initiatives.

By restructuring government and reducing overlapping positions, Lane County could increase its revenue and create a better standard of living for its citizens, Kelly said.

Four candidates withdraw from ASUO elections

The field in this month's student elections has narrowed due to the withdrawal of four candidates, including one presidential contender.

Page McCallum, who filed for student body president, has been declared ineligible by the Elections Board because he has not paid his student fees.

Meanwhile, a candidate for the Oregon Daily Emerald Board of Directors, Frank Shaw, news editor for the Emerald, is also ineligible. The newspaper has a clause in its bylaws forbidding employees to participate in elections.

And the race for two openings on the EMU Board has been reduced from seven to five because two candidates have withdrawn, the Elections Board announced.

Pulling out of that campaign are Margie Boyd, a junior in economics, and James Myers, a freshman in computer science.

The board also announced a method for determining which two Incidental Fee Committee members will serve two-year terms, should that proposal be passed into the elections.

The board will ask the top two vote getters if they would like to serve a two-year term. If not, they will ask the next highest vote getter and continue until finding two who will serve two years, according to a memo circulated by the Elections Board.

In another elections matter, the ASUO Executive announced that Suite 4 will close at noon on April 19, the final day of the primary elections, and noon on April 26, the conclusion of the general elections, in order to count ballots.

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