

Writing: Lee is working on a second novel about women

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1995 Oregon Best Book award, which will be announced Nov. 13.

Lee said he is now working on a second novel about the life of a "comfort woman," who is one of many Korean women who were kidnapped and forced to be sex-slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II. The book should be available in 1997.

Lee has been hailed as the first authentic literary voice for Korean-Americans but is uncomfortable with the title.

"I don't think of myself that way and I don't think anyone else should," he said. "All writers, especially American writers, have different backgrounds. That's what's so exciting about American writing — it's always fresh and varied."

Lee said he doesn't attribute his talent to his ethnicity. Good, compelling writing that moves the reader is what's important, he said.

"It's the use of language, not simply who writes it," Lee said.

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NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Clark Utilities Commission approves bond sale for plant



NORTHWEST

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — Clark County's Public Utilities Commission has approved a \$161 million bond sale so the utility can make its own electricity.

The commission also voted Tuesday to purchase power from Portland-based PacifiCorp and Washington Water Power of Spokane.

The moves mean that by late 1997, the utility will receive only about 10 percent of its electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration instead of nearly all of its power as it has for years.

The transition has already begun with recent contracts with the Spokane and Portland utilities.

The bond sale will pay for a natural-gas-fired turbine to be running by late 1997. It is expected to produce about half the electricity used by the utility's 126,000 customers.

The bonds run through 2010 but will be retired on a revolving schedule that puts the average life at 9.38 years. The interest rate is 5.29 percent.

Equipment failure causes two blackouts on space shuttle



NATIONAL

C A P E CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA lost radio contact with space shuttle

Columbia for a total of more than an hour Thursday because of an equipment failure in New Mexico.

Mission Control saw the two communications blackouts coming and warned the astronauts. Mission operations representative Jeff Bantle said the problem did not affect the laboratory experiments aboard.

Bantle said that electronics equipment at the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite station at New Mexico's White Sands Missile Range probably experienced a power outage.

The communications blackouts happened on back-to-back orbits. The first lasted 36 minutes, the second 27 minutes.

Earlier this week, a ground problem resulted in an 18-minute loss of communication between Mission Control and Columbia.

Columbia's seven-member crew performed more fluid and crystal-growth experiments Thursday, nearly one week into their 16-day research mission.

Soviet authorities release documents on deadly missile test



WORLD

MOSCOW (AP) — In their haste to fix a Soviet ballistic missile so it could be launched on schedule, workers made a fatal mistake. They gave the missile the signal to go, ignoring that the fuel tanks were already full.

Thirty-five years after the explosion, which killed 74 people, the Russian government has released the details of what went wrong during the 1960 test of the intercontinental missile.

A report Thursday in the military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said the disaster was caused by workers who, rushing to carry out the launch on schedule, were fixing a problem in the circuitry with the missile's fuel tanks already filled.

An erroneous electric signal prematurely launched the missile's second phase, causing the missile to explode.

The report, citing documents declassified this week, also suggested military officers ignored safety rules by standing close to the missile.

Footage of the disaster shown on the NTV television network showed wounded officers running amid a sea of fire.

•The EMU Beer Gardens are open Friday afternoons between 4-7 p.m. in the Fountain Court Cafeteria. There is live music from 5 to 7 p.m., and admission is free. On Oct. 27, Mark Alan (folk) will be playing at a non-alcoholic beer gardens. All ages are welcome. On Nov. 3, Richmond Fontaine (country punk) and Vehicle (opening act) will be playing. On Nov. 10, A.K.A. (boisterous rock) will be playing. On Nov. 17, Renegade Saints (folksy rock) will be playing with a \$1 cover charge. The hours will be 5 to 8 p.m. instead of the usual hours. On Dec. 1, Peter Wilde & Band (folk) will be playing. People must be 21 or older, unless otherwise indicated, to enter. Food and alternative beverages are available. For more information call 346-3718.

•The third annual "Pleasant Hill Harvest Festival" is set for Saturday at Pleasant Hill Junior High School, 36386 Highway 58.

•The Bureau of Land Management will temporarily close the popular Shotgun Creek Recreation Site, effective Sunday. The closure is necessary because funding is not available to keep the park open through the winter and early spring months. The closure will remain in effect until April 29, 1996.

Community CALENDAR

This public event is free and will be held in the school's multi-purpose room and gymnasium. The festival runs from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The festival will feature crafts, food, entertainment and other activities. Tickets are required to play the games. A harvest game "passport" worth 22 tickets will be sold for \$5. Individual tickets are 25 cents.

People are encouraged to bring cans of food for food baskets that go to needy Pleasant Hill families during the holidays. For each can of food people bring, they will get a free game ticket. For more information about the festival call 895-3140 or 747-5050.

•The Bureau of Land Management will temporarily close the popular Shotgun Creek Recreation Site, effective Sunday. The closure is necessary because funding is not available to keep the park open through the winter and early spring months. The closure will remain in effect until April 29, 1996.

Shotgun Creek Park is located northeast of Eugene, near Marcola. The park features nature trails, picnic sites, group shelters and summertime swimming. The park has no admission fee but does charge for the group shelters.

•The City of Eugene's annual leaf program has a new focus this year. Residents are encouraged to use leaves as home compost or mulch material and to bring leftover leaves to commercial recyclers, who accept yard debris for a nominal charge. As a last resort, the City will collect leaves if they are placed properly in the street.

For more information about composting, commercial recycling.

The Alternative

Java, Juice and music with

Mark Alan

An All Ages Happy Hour

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All students and families invited

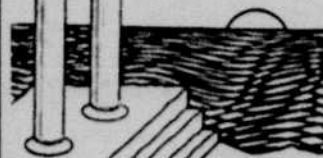
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