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TANNING SESSIONS

Iraninas to exhibit Western art pieces

By Anwar Faruqi
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran — Like buried treasure, scores of original works by Picasso, Gauguin, Renoir and other Western masters have lain hidden in the vaults of a museum in Iran for nearly 20 years.

But for the first time since the 1979 Iranian revolution, the rich collection is expected to go on display early next year.

The paintings and sculptures were ordered collected for the state by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and his wife, Farah Diba, during the oil boom of the 1970s.

But when the Iranian monarch was overthrown, the new Islamic government, thumbing its nose at all things Western, locked away most of the pieces at the Museum of Contemporary Arts.

The collection has remained in the vaults, while the galleries above are filled with kitsch revolutionary art and Islamic pieces.

Only works by Iranian masters and a half-dozen lithographs by Picasso, Chagall and Miro are displayed from the old collection. The exhibits draw few visitors, even on weekends.

But the May 1997 election of a new Iranian president has brought sweeping political changes, affecting attitudes to nearly everything — including art.

A former minister of culture, President Mohammad Khatami has res-

cued Iran's art scene from years of isolation, even encouraging cultural exchanges with the United States, considered Iran's arch-enemy by hard-line revolutionaries.

At the Museum of Contemporary Arts, a new curator is busy readying galleries where works by such artists as Kandinsky, Monet, Pissarro, Braque, Toulouse-Lautrec, Pollock and Warhol will be shown.

"New facilities currently being built to display our treasury of Western art should be ready by the end of this year, and so by early 1999 the galleries should be open to the public," said Alireza Sami-Azar, the curator.

He said some works are even being loaned abroad. A Gauguin was recently sent to a Swiss exhibition of the French master's works.

Some prized possessions will remain locked up. Displaying nudes or semi-nudes would run into modesty laws.

Nearby, Swiss sculptor Max Bill's bronze of a dancing woman was spared similar zeal, probably because the abstract figure eight magically transforms into a graceful dancer only when viewed from a certain angle.

Since the revolution, that sculpture and a few others scattered around the museum's manicured lawn are the only hint of what's locked up inside. Few passers-by recognize the sculptures as works by Henry Moore, Alexander Calder and Alberto Giacometti.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE...

A preview of the UO Greek Community men's rush events week of oct. 1-9

RUSH

october 1st rush kickoff
greek community party, live band
@ humpy lumpy (the lawn by the Hamilton Complex)

october 2nd sports day
@ the lawns by the Carson complex

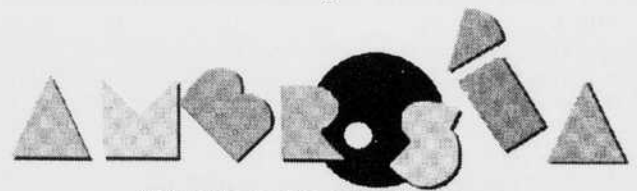
october 3rd
all greek community service project

october 4th - 9th
much, much, more

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Week of Welcome

Welcome to the EMU

Friday, September 25th

EMU Amphitheater Stage:

- Noon-1:30 **LAZOO** —jazz
www.lazoo.zone.com
- 1:30-2:00 **ABSOLUTE IMPROV**—
UO's own improv comedy
group
- 2:00-3:30 **ABAKADUBI**—world beat,
Caribbean, blues, reggae &
Spanish Gypsy
- 4:00-5:30 **SOUL FUNCTION**—
funk & soul
- 6:00-7:30 **OLEM ALVES BAND**—
blues
- 8:00 **CREATURE FROM THE
BLACK LAGOON**—
3-D movie

1:00-3:00 **CLIMBING WALL**—
Extreme Expositions
presented by Crux Rock
Gym, Eugene —
EMU East Lawn

1:00 **ICE CREAM SOCIAL**—
ASUO Women's Ctr.

Other:
**JUGGLING DEMO &
INSTRUCTION** by the
Club Sports Juggling Club,
demonstrations by the EMU
Craft Center & food delights
between the Amphitheater
and the Courtyard.

The "Buzz" Coffeehouse (It's open now!):

11:00 pm-1:00 am Uncle Ed's Auto Parts Collection—jazz funk & experimental sounds

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