

Monologue



Soviet Union withdraws as politics invade Olympics

By Doug Vaughan
Editor in Chief

The United States is hosting the 1984 Olympics, but will anyone be there to compete? One score is for sure: U.S.-1, Soviet Union-1. Call it getting even or whatever you want, the Soviets have evened the score, as once again politics have entered the Olympic Games.

The U.S.S.R. announced last Tuesday that it has withdrawn from the Los Angeles Games because of inefficient security and "an anti-Soviet hysteria" that it claimed was being drummed up in our homeland.

In 1980, it was the U.S.A. who bowed out due to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The score is tied now.

To me, the Olympics seem more a competition between the greatest athletes in the world rather than a time to show political maneuvers. With these boycotts, there are no true Olympics being held.

What is being flirted with is the demise of the Olympic Games. No longer do we have the competition between world-class athletes, but more of a competition between the nations from which the athletes are from.

William Simon, committee chairman of the U.S. Olympic Committee, said at a committee meeting, "Politics have been so deeply ingrained in the Olympics for so long. We have not been clean; if this continues, it will kill the Olympics."

Some say nonsense, but the Soviets are playing with the idea of having their own games for Eastern Bloc countries. It might be the best thing for their athletes, who have trained so hard, since they will not compete in the Olympics, but for the future of the Olympic Games it's a knife in the back.

There still is hope, though. A June 2 deadline lies between the Soviets' boycott and the confirmation date for participation in the Olympics. But with talks of Eastern Bloc Games, the thought of the true Olympics seems unforseeable.

The Americans claimed to make an at-

tempt to convince the Soviets, but the response was pessimistic. As one senior White House official said, "We are not going to beg them."

The Soviet boycott seemed almost a natural way for them to get back at the U.S. for the 1980 boycott, in fact, there were plans for Eastern Bloc Games surfacing for months. Romania is the only Eastern Bloc country which is expected to compete in the Games.

It should have been learned by the 1980 U.S. boycott what a withdrawal from the Olympics would do. The American athletes expressed their distress after the withdrawal and certainly not a lot was gained by the boycott.

Yet, after the 1980 Games the denouncing of the Olympics in Los Angeles had started. Soviet newspapers have denounced the commercialism of the Los Angeles Games.

Just recently, the talks about the Games have gotten even harsher. Reports centered in on the danger that the Soviet athletes would face. Rumors surfaced about the discrimination they would face, and they even went as deep as to say that U.S. groups planned to kill Soviet participants.

If this is true, I wouldn't come either. But I highly doubt it is. U.S. officials called the decision of the Soviets to withdraw a "blatant political action," upon which there was no real justification, according to a May article in the Oregonian.

Still the Soviets appear that they will not reconsider. The attempts the U.S. has made are considered legit, but that is left for our discretion.

Whether the Soviets participate in the Olympics or not, politics have once again gotten entangled within the Olympic Games. With it, the world has taken one more step toward the demise of the one event for all athletes to compete internationally.

The end of the Olympic Games would only solve one problem, how to get the torch across the ocean without dispersing the flame.

Open primaries needed

By Steve Lundgren
Of The Print

Tom Mix always wore a white hat in the days of hero westerns. And Brian Donlevy wore a black one. Dirty Harry avenges while those he kills are murderers. In the movies there is only good and evil. Anyone who just happens to be on the set without killing somebody is an extra.

Today, as with every primary election day since I was able to vote, I feel like an extra. Oregon's system of closed primaries is at fault. With this state's system, an individual must be registered as either a Republican or as a Democrat in order to vote for partisan candidates. If one is registered as an independent as I am, he may vote only for issues, judges, mayors and the like. But when it comes to electing our potential legislators and executives, an independent is an extra without a valid opinion.

By definition we are a democratic union in which each individual's opinion counts. Of course, there are bound to be flaws in such a system, but some are easily remedied. Many states do have open primaries where everyone is entitled to vote for their favorite candidate. Yet in Oregon a large group of individuals are partially denied their right to vote. It is time that this state liberalized its election process and adopted the open primary.

Seatbelts make difference

By Heather Wright
Of The Print

It only takes a few seconds. Some people say they just don't have time. Even if it's a matter of life and death? *Seat belts.* They do make a difference.

I was one of those people who just did not have time to buckle my seat belt, until last Thursday—I was involved in an automobile accident. I wasn't wearing my seat belt. I only suffered very minor aches and pains, but if I would have spent a few seconds buckling up, I wouldn't have had to suffer at all.

The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that all cars sold in the United States after September 1, 1983, must have passive-restraint safety systems.

Only 11 percent of the drivers in the United States wear their seat belts. Approximately 14,000 to 18,000 lives could be saved each year if people would take the time to buckle up.

Think about it. You can save your own life. Next time you get in your car, take those few seconds to buckle up.

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