

Demonstrators oppose bomber

By BYRON ACOHIDO
Of the Emerald

Calling for a halt of further funding of the controversial B-1 Bomber, a crowd of about 60 people took part in a sign-waving, slogan-shouting demonstration at the Eugene downtown mall Saturday.

The demonstrators watched a skit satirizing Pres. Jimmy Carter and marched around the mall chanting "Stop the B-1 ... peace and jobs," and "Peanuts for Rockwell, jobs for the people."

The demonstration was organized by Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) and was one of many B-1 Bomber rallies around the nation Saturday.

CALC, a national organization, is concerned with newly inaugurated Carter's stand on whether or not to commit the nation to a \$92

billion production program for the new war plane.

"We think the B-1 Bomber isn't needed for the defense of the country," said Marion Barnes, director of CALC's Lane County chapter. "All it does is spend very large amounts of taxpayers' money which should be going to meet human needs in areas such as health care and education."

Barnes said Carter made a strong campaign commitment against the B-1, but lately his stand on the issue has been unclear.

"We're convinced that he's getting very heavy pressure from the Pentagon and from contractors who can get a profit from building the plane," Barnes said. "We feel that we have to show him that the public is still very concerned about the issue, and that most Ameri-

cans do not want the B-1 Bomber."

Another CALC member, Steve Lambert, agreed with Barnes, saying, "The B-1 is clearly not needed for defense purposes, and at the moment it's being built only to repay Rockwell Industries (the B-1's contractor) investments in it."

Demonstrator Paul Harrison also questioned the need for a new bomber. "It's really questionable whether a supersonic bomber manned by a human being has any national security role in a nuclear age where defense rests primarily on intercontinental ballistic missiles," Harrison added. "Bombers, by and large, have a role only in limited wars like Vietnam where they're used, as someone once said, to bomb primitive societies back to the Stone Age."

Both Harrison and Lambert played parts in the skit. Lambert portrayed Carter, imitating the former Georgia governor's southern drawl, and tossing peanuts and waffles to the crowd. In the skit, he bantered with other players who were labeled respectively as Corporate Umbrella, Vested Interests and Human Needs. Other players waved a large white cardboard elephant marked "B-1."

"If we do have a B-1 bomah," Lambert shouted in his Carter impression at one point to the crowd, "It's gonna be a B-1 bomah that's just as warm and compassionate and lovin' as all of the American people."

After the demonstration, which lasted about 45 minutes, people milled about in small groups talking and filling out postcards supporting CALC's stop the B-1 Bomber effort.



Photo by Ken Shin

"If we do have a B-1 bomah," drawls Steve Lambert, a Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) member imitating President Jimmy Carter at Saturday's downtown demonstration protesting the B-1 bomber, "it's gonna be a B-1 bomah that's just as warm and compassionate and loving as all of the American people."

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Vacancies

least it's no longer a 'necessity' kind of feeling like it was earlier this year."

By comparison, University dormitory housing was experiencing severe overcrowding at the beginning of this school year. Because of "many more women than anticipated," said Dick Romm, assistant director of student housing in charge of dormitories, some extra provisions were necessary to accommodate them. Douglas Hall in the Walton complex, previously a men's dorm, was given to the women.

Housing officials also converted Moore in the Bean complex into a co-ed hall. That made room for 18 to 20 more women, Romm indicated. The housing office will soon evaluate the success of that co-educational dorm.

In addition, some of the offices in Carson, which are actually dormitory rooms, were used for housing until those extra people could be gradually absorbed. "It took about three weeks," said Romm.

"We're a little bit down this term over last term, which is normal," he said. "But we seem to be a little more crowded than last year." Between 150 and 200 students withdrew from the dormitories after fall term, and close to 210 new reservations for rooms have since been received by the housing office. Of those 210 reservations, Romm expects six to ten per cent "no-shows."

According to Romm, it's hard to find space. University dorms are currently housing around 2,670
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students. As of Wednesday, the last upperclassman vacancy had been filled. "But next week there may be three more," he said.

The big problem, Romm explained, is students who withdraw soon after registration. When demand for housing is high preceding registration, the forms are full. Then when those few students withdraw because they didn't get

the classes they wanted, there are spaces but the demand has evaporated.

So Romm fills those empty spaces with students who have been on the waiting list for single rooms. Right now, about 550 rooms are singles. He said, "We were overcrowded," but in the end "we could wind up with a few empty spaces."

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