

# Marchers battle arms race

More than 150 people took part in a candlelight walk Sunday night to protest the proliferation of nuclear arms.

For many the walk, which started at the Federal Building downtown and went to Alton Baker Park, was the end of a four-day fast marking the 36th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.

Ironically, this weekend's "Freeze the Arms Race" protest coincided with an announcement by the Reagan administration that the U.S. plans to start production of neutron weapons.

Olive Bowers of Citizen Action for Lasting Security, one of the groups that sponsored the march, told marchers that "We take for granted the beautiful features of our earth, but we should realize that we are in danger.

"It is in our own self interests to protect these features."

Bowers said that anti-arms-race movements in the United States have lagged behind those in other countries, due to a feeling of apathy and hopelessness in this country.

"If you feel like you have no control, imagine how helpless people in Europe and other places at the mercy of the U.S. and Russia must feel," she said. "We have a special responsibility in the United States — while we still have time."

Bowers said that her group is a "grass-roots" organization that is trying to join other groups to form a strong movement nationwide. She hopes that the movement is strong enough by the 1984 elections that no politician will be able to be run for a major office without taking a stand on nuclear disarmament.

Bowers added that Citizen Action for Lasting Security was instrumental in the recent passage of Oregon Senate Joint Memorial 5, which urges a freeze on the development and deployment of nuclear bombs.



Two of the younger marchers keep their candles lit during Sunday's midnight vigil.

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Thurs. 13

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Fri. 14

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8 pm

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# City Council approves park levy

The Committee to Preserve Gillespie Butte is beginning its campaign for Ballot Measure 52 — a special one-year tax levy to make the site a city park.

Earlier this summer the committee gathered a petition signed by more than 9,600 Eugene residents to convert the area, a high tract of land due east of Valley River Center, into a city park.

The Eugene Water and Electric Board, which owns the land, has decided that it is no longer needed as a reservoir site and must be sold.

Upon receiving the petition, the Eugene City Council approved a levy of slightly more

than \$650,000 to be submitted to the voters as Ballot Measure 52 on Sept. 15. If the levy fails, the committee says it will not appear again on a ballot and the land will be sold to private developers.

The tax rate for the levy will be 17 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value for the 1981-82 fiscal year only. The owner of a \$65,000 home would pay about \$11.

"If everybody could sit up there once and see the view, I think they would be willing to spend \$11.00," says committee member Tim Bloch. "It's the last oasis near downtown available to the public."

The committee fears that Bal-

lot Measure 52 might suffer the same fate as other measures which have been defeated in recent special levy elections. "We need to inform people that this is a one-time payment," says committee treasurer Karen Landsdowne. "This is a one in a million chance to get a piece of land like this."

The committee also stresses that Eugene's 1990 plan, which calls for more residential building activity in the Willagillespie and Coburg areas adjacent to the butte, currently leaves north Eugene residents without a regional park. Gillespie Butte

Park will provide a relief from the heavy increases in population density projected by the 1990 plan, the committee says.

If Ballot Measure 52 passes, the committee wants to retain the natural features of Gillespie Butte and limit vehicle access to the 4½-acre park at the top. "It's a place to escape from the harsh sounds and pressures of city life," says chairer Katie Barnes.

For more information on the drive to preserve Gillespie Butte, contact Barnes at 344-2744 or vice-chairer Cheryle Hawkins at 345-2744.



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