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Organizers pleased with week of events

If the success of a five-day event can be measured by the happiness of its organizers, then the "Week of Education" co-sponsored by Students for a Nuclear Free Future and the Faculty Arms Control Group last week was a triumph.

"We achieved what we wanted," said Terry Teitelbaum, one of SNUFF's organizers of the event. "We involved people who otherwise stay away from things political."

The program was designed to inform people about the nuclear arms race and SNUFF co-organizer Sherri Schultz and Brad Passenger agree with Teitelbaum.

'We're reaching new people'

— Terry Teitelbaum

Activities and events focused on the psychic numbing effect of thinking about nuclear war, children's points of view and deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe, as well as moral and religious views and the history of nuclear weapon construction in the United States.

"A lot of the complacency people have about the arms race is because of ignorance," Teitelbaum said. "The week served to inform people of what's out there."

Passenger estimated that at least 1,500 people either witnessed or participated in the activities while thousands more learned about it through media coverage.

"We're reaching new people," he said, comparing this year's crowd with those of the previous two years.

Schultz said representatives of many other organizations in town, including several high schools, have approached her about getting information on the arms race.

Of the many events last week, the two to draw the largest crowds were a Monday peace parade and a Friday "die-in."

The two events were designed to attract the attention of onlookers and the media, Passenger said.

Surrounded by TV cameras and hundreds of student observers, the parade ended in a half-hour silent "circle for peace." The "die-in" ended with a speaker describing the effects of a nuclear bomb being detonated in Eugene while dozens of people pretended to die and hundreds watched and listened in silence.

"The die-in was a metaphor for the whole week," said ASUO Pres. Mary Hotchkiss.



Photo by Steve Crowell

While dozens of people played dead Friday during the die-in in the EMU courtyard, members of Coalition for Peace Through Strength staged a protest against the nuclear freeze movement.

Arms protesters stage EMU 'die-in'

Several dozen nuclear blast victims pretended to die in the EMU courtyard Friday, while a speaker announced that 98 percent of the population within a 2.1 mile radius of the University had been killed instantly.

Meanwhile, five onlookers hoisted a banner that intimated a real blast could be the result of a nuclear freeze.

The activities were all part of a week of student protests against nuclear arms.

In between chants of "freeze now, fry later," Doug Green of Coalition for Peace Through Strength and the College Republicans said there was a fundamental difference in philosophy between the Coalition and freeze proponents.

Green said he favors a build-down approach. He said the Soviets can't be trusted to be faithful to a mutually agreed upon freeze.

"The genie's out of the bottle," and people have to learn to live with the technology, Green said.

Many freeze proponents, on the other hand,

view a freeze on nuclear arms research and production as but the first step in eliminating nuclear weapons altogether.

Sherri Schultz of SNUFF said her organization does not take an official stand on a particular solution to the nuclear arms race, but "we all agree we need some alternatives."

Schultz did rule out one course of action.

"We don't need to keep increasing the technology," she said.

Schultz said the intent of the "die-in" was not to promote any specific alternative, but to promote awareness of the effects of nuclear war.

Likening nuclear weaponry more to a Frankenstein than a genie, she said, "if we're intelligent enough to devise space weapons, we're intelligent enough to control the technology."

Schultz said a nuclear build-down would be nothing new, that the United States has historically made a practice of replacing old weapons with new ones.

Postcards protest aid amendment

Members of the ASUO Friday displayed postcards and a friend-of-the-court brief intended to show student opposition to the federal Solomon Amendment.

ASUO Vice President Kevin Kouns presented the 900 anti-Solomon, student-signed postcards to Nancy Disney from U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver's office, during a press conference. The postcards, which also were addressed to Sens. Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood, both Oregon Republicans, show that "students, for one of the first times in a long time, are actually doing something about their opposition," Kouns said.

The Solomon Amendment requires students to register with the Selective Service or certify ineligibility or exemption from registration before receiving federal financial aid.

In addition, University Student Advocate Bill Kittredge announced the filing of a friend-of-the-court brief supporting contentions of six anonymous Minnesota students who oppose the amendment in a case currently before the Supreme Court.

The Solomon Amendment "is asking people to certify they have not committed a crime in order to get financial aid for which they're already entitled," Kittredge said.

'Expo' shows the future of leisure

By Michele Matassa
Of the Emerald

The future holds more in store for us than public space-shuttle rides and widespread computer use, judging by the exhibits at this weekend's Future Expo, held at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

Many of the displays did feature robots, lasers and computer models. But a large number of exhibits focused on the future of leisure life.

Advanced stereo systems with six-foot speakers, sunken whirlpool baths and video cassette recorders all are in use today, but their inclusion in the expo seemed to point toward expanded use in the future.

"We tried to mix the high-tech — the computers and electronics — with leisure, which also is part of the future," said Bill Snyder, an expo coordinator.

"We certainly couldn't include everyone who is involved in the county, but we tried to get a showcase. We broke up the monotony of trade shows that are narrow in scope," Snyder said.

About 75 businesses set up exhibits. The University chemical physics institute drew a large crowd with its laser demonstration, which used the special light to pop a red balloon inside a white balloon without popping the white one.

One booth displayed an "ultralight" aircraft, a lightweight plane with a five-gallon gasoline tank. Its engine runs for one hour on only two gallons of gas.

Snyder and the other expo coordinators, John Noell, Robert Fous and Carl Watkins, hoped to attract 20,000 people to the free event. By Sunday morning, 12,000 to 15,000 people had wandered through the exhibits, Snyder estimated.

The "Invent the Future" contest was Saturday's main attraction. About 25 grade school classes from around the county designed table-top displays depicting the year 2001. The three displays judged as winners received computer systems donated by local business.

Kennedy Middle School's sixth grade, led by teacher Wally Peterson, won the grand prize, an Apple disk II computer system donated by Team Electronics. About 15 students worked after school for more than a month designing the six-tier project, which tested the possibility of electric photosynthesis.

The second-place display, built by Madison Elementary School's sixth grade, stressed energy supply, featuring solar, tidal and steam energy generators.

Many of the displays used the color green, showing a desire to preserve the environment, said Alice Carnes, director of the Willamette Science and Technology Center. WISTEC sponsored the contest.

"We're getting a message. The message is keep it the way it is, don't trash it. Use technology to keep the world liveable," Carnes said.

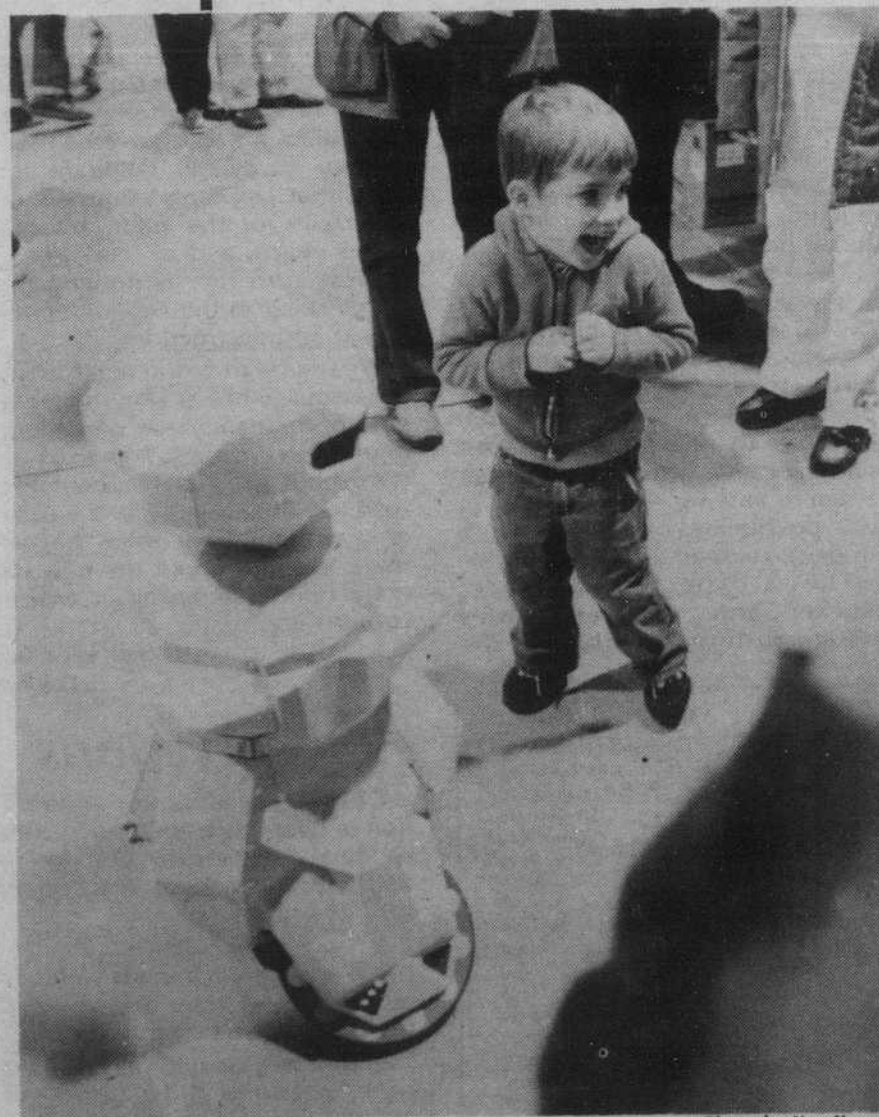


Photo by Ken Kromer

This youngster appears a little reticent about making friends with a robot — one of the many symbols of tomorrow's world exhibited during 'Future Expo,' held this weekend at the Lane County Fairgrounds.