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## Torch relay sparks enthusiasm, spirit

By Paul Ertelt  
Of the Emerald

University student Vickie Van Artsdalen knows she will never get to run in the Olympics. But carrying the Olympic torch down Franklin Boulevard Sunday night was close enough for the 22-year-old physical education major.

Van Artsdalen was of one of a handful of Eugene/Springfield residents who carried the Olympic flame.

Van Artsdalen said she waited more than three hours for her turn to carry the torch for her allotted kilometer. The torch was scheduled to reach downtown Eugene about 9 p.m., but it arrived more than two hours late.

About 11:30 p.m., Travis Kizer, surrounded by a police escort and an honor guard of twelve boys and girls, jogged up to the corner of Broadway and Hilyard Street to light Van Artsdalen's torch. Ten-year-old Kizer, a student at Meadowlark School, was chosen to carry the torch in a drawing held after the YMCA's recent Youth Run.

Though she had no official honor guard, Van Artsdalen was escorted during her seven-minute run by an impromptu entourage of about 50 people who cheered her on.

"It was a real honor guard," she said after her run. "It's a real honor to have all these people here I don't even know."

But the real honor for Van Artsdalen was carrying the torch itself. "It's like taking part in the Olympics," she said. "In fact, it is taking part in the Olympics."

Van Artsdalen began running when she was a student at West Albany High School. She trained with the track team, but injuries kept her from competing two years in a row.

Now Van Artsdalen has a private trainer and she competes in local "all-comers" races, doing mostly five-kilometer runs, she says.

Running with the torch was something Van Artsdalen has dreamed about for several years, but she did not know how to go about doing it. After asking around, she finally found an application for torchbearers in a sporting-goods store.

In December, Van Artsdalen found a sponsor. As the Worm Turns, a Portland engineering firm owned by a family friend. Her sponsor paid the \$3,000 donation for the "Youth Legacy Kilometer," part of which will go to support programs by the Eugene YMCA.

Other area torch runners included Barbara Nicholls, a consultant to student athletes at the University, and Jo Dellinger, the 16 year-old son of



Photo by Michael Clapp

Vickie Van Artsdalen and Travis Kizer are among 4,000 people nationwide participating in the Olympic torch relay. The torch will reach Los Angeles July 28 for the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics.

University track coach Bill Dellinger

Nicholls, who carried the torch to the Hult Center for the Performing Arts where an estimated crowd of 7,000 people was gathered, said she was overwhelmed by the crowd's show of patriotism.

"They were cheering their country because it was something they could feel good about," Nicholls said. "They were waving flags, crying and cheering. It was marvelous."

"I was absolutely elated. The torch was fairly heavy, but the crowd just lifted me," Nicholls said.

At a little after 8 a.m. Monday, Dean Pape, accompanied by his 13 grandchildren, picked up the relay at the corner of Walnut Street and Franklin Boulevard.

The relay continued into Springfield and then east along Highway 58. After crossing the Cascades, the torch relay will head south to Klamath Falls and into California.

Approximately 4,000 people throughout the country will have carried the torch by the time it reaches Los Angeles. Also, about 250 employees of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co., the national sponsor of the torch relay, will have carried the torch where no kilometers have been sold.

The relay began in New York City May 8 and is scheduled to arrive at the Los Angeles Coliseum July 28 in time for the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics.

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## Court's Solomon ruling elicits local criticism

By Paul Ertelt  
Of the Emerald

The Supreme Court's recent ruling upholding the Solomon Amendment has met with local criticism, but the decision probably will affect few students, says the University's financial aid director.

In an 8-2 decision Thursday, the court upheld the constitutional basis of the amendment, which withholds financial aid from draft-age males who will not register with the selective service.

"What the court said was... (the amendment) is not a bill of attainder nor a violation of a young man's right to avoid self-incrimination," says a spokesperson for the court.

Justices Thurgood Marshall and William Brennan dissented from the court opinion, maintaining that the law is unconstitutional because it

violates equal-protection guarantees and the right to avoid self-incrimination.

The amendment had been challenged by six Minnesota college students and the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group. But in the majority decision, Chief Justice Warren Burger wrote that the amendment is "plainly a rational means to improve compliance with the registration requirement."

At the University, between 60 and 65 percent of all students receive some form of federal assistance, says Ed Vignoul, director of the financial aid office.

And of those recipients, "I don't think a significant number of people are not registered," Vignoul says. "By most reports, 95 percent to 97 percent are complying. And of those who are not, many are not

students."

Supporters of the amendment maintain that those receiving the benefit of government aid should be required to obey the laws of that government. But ASUO Pres. Julie Davis says she is "very disappointed" with the ruling.

"Though the Supreme Court views it as legal, it is still highly discriminatory," Davis says. The amendment singles out the disadvantaged who need the financial assistance but takes no action against others who refuse to register, she says.

The issue here is much broader than the Solomon Amendment, says Ron Phillips, coordinator of the Alliance to Counter Militarism. The question is whether a draft is constitutional and whether it is appropriate in a democratic society.

Many of the nation's early leaders, including Daniel Webster, were strongly opposed to the idea of a draft, Phillips says.

"A draft takes away your power to choose," he says. Though there may be cases where military action is justified, the draft system does not allow an individual to refuse service in a conflict he finds immoral, unless he opposes all wars, he says.

"The only position the University has taken is that it's the law and we will abide by it," Vignoul says. "We are not going to put a \$23-million program into jeopardy."

Many offers of financial aid are turned down by students, Vignoul says, but there is no way of knowing how many are turned down because people are refusing to register.

Under the Solomon Amendment, all students seeking financial aid must sign a statement saying they have registered for the draft or stating the reason they are not required to register. Last fall, a female student here was denied aid because she refused to sign the form in protest to the amendment.

Failure to register carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. There is an additional penalty for making a false statement on the verification form.

The financial aid office does not require students to prove they have registered, Vignoul says, but the federal government audits the office every two years and will check a random sampling of forms to see if the signers are actually registered.