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President Olum reflects on arms race

By Michael Doke
Of the Emerald

The United States was at war 39 years ago and was in a race against time and other nations to be the first to possess an atomic weapon.

Los Alamos, N.M., became the base for such research and employed the efforts of the best scientists in the country — Robert J. Oppenheimer, Enrico Fermi, Niels Bohr and Edward Teller.

Success came on July 16, 1945, just outside of Alamogordo, N.M., where the first atomic device was exploded.

On Aug. 6, Hiroshima, Japan, was attacked with the new, devastating weapon, causing about 130,000 casualties. Three days later, Nagasaki, Japan, became the second target of the U.S. bomb and 40,000 more people died.

Now in a world changed by the two attacks and the arms race that followed, University President Paul Olum takes time out to reflect on his role in creating the weapon.

"People had a real sense of achievement. The one thing we were working on actually worked and did what it was supposed to do — end the war.

"But then there was a sense of horror. We knew it was the beginning of a change, the beginning of something terrible.

"All of us had a double-take," says Olum, who spent three years at Los Alamos. Arriving there in early 1942, Olum was one of a handful of scientist's originally involved in the Manhattan Project, the code name for the coordinated team of researchers who developed the atomic bomb.

Now Olum, 62, as with many of the scientists involved in the project, is speaking out against the nuclear arms race.

And Olum, who will speak on the history of the Manhattan Project tonight at the Eugene Community Conference

Center, 7th Avenue and Oak Street, is being heard.

One week ago, he was a guest on the nationally syndicated Donahue show speaking on nuclear arms issues with Peter Wyden, father of Rep. Ron Wyden and author of a new book about the project called "Day One," and Herbert York, a physicist who once served on the U.S. Arms Control Commission.

Olum plays a part at the end of Wyden's book for circulating a petition calling for nuclear disarmament during the 40th anniversary of Manhattan Project scientists last year.

Olum says the Phil Donahue audience, usually heatedly involved with issues discussed on the show, was subdued during the taping.

"The thing that makes the Donahue show interesting is the audience," he says. "But this subject seemed to keep them quiet."

Olum did manage to get his point across, however, when two final questions, one concerning knowledge of the nuclear arms build-up and the other concerning a defense against the weapons, were asked at the conclusion of the taping.

"There are 484 active warheads on two nuclear submarines," Olum says he told the audience. "They could destroy every city in Russia if they were aimed at them. This is just on two submarines.

"So what does it matter who's a little bit ahead of the other" in nuclear stockpiles, he went on to say. "We're not playing checkers or horseshoes here. We can destroy the whole world."

The creation of the bomb stemmed from experiments with nuclear fission conducted in 1939, Olum says.

In that same year, physicist Albert Einstein wrote to President Franklin Roosevelt warning him of the possibility of Germany developing the bomb, prompting the development of the Manhat-



University President Paul Olum will discuss the history of the development of the atomic bomb tonight at 8 at the Eugene Community Conference Center.

tan Project.

"The Nazi's provided... a real reason to build the bomb," he says.

The notion that the Germans had a nuclear bomb and could deliver it drove the United States' nuclear effort, Olum says. "They could have conceivably taken over Britain and the whole world," he says.

Olum, a Harvard graduate, left Princeton University in 1942, where he was a graduate student in physics and mathematics working on uranium research, to work at Los Alamos.

"I wish I kept a diary there so I could sense how I thought back then," Olum says. "It was an extraordinary place."

Olum says the hunger and drive to

develop the bomb overshadowed feelings of its eventual destructive consequence.

"Once the first bomb fell on Hiroshima, that should have been it," he says. "There was no reason to drop the Nagasaki bomb; that should have never happened.

Olum's speech, the second of the University Forum lecture series this academic year, will explore moral aspects and responsibility in the nuclear age. Rep. Jim Weaver will introduce the program. The speech, scheduled for 8 p.m., is free to the public.

Olum's appearance on Donahue will air in Eugene three weeks from its original broadcast in Chicago.

Discrimination case reaches final stages

Lawyers will reveal their final arguments today in Portland in the landmark sex-discrimination trial between Oregon women college professors and the State Board of Higher Education.

The non-jury trial, Penk vs. State Board of Higher Education, started Feb. 8 before U.S. District Judge Helen Frye. The two parties failed to come to an agreement in several settlement conferences before and during the trial, which came to a close last Friday.

Anna Penk, an associate professor at Western Oregon State College, is one of 22 named plaintiffs in the class action lawsuit. The plaintiffs are seeking back pay and assurances that the state will improve its treatment of women faculty. The plaintiffs contend that the state system has been discriminating against them on the basis of sex in regard to pay, promotion, tenure, professional duties, sabbatical leaves, grant support, adjunct appointments, advancement to administrative posts and policy-making positions, and salary and grievance mechanisms.

Frye eventually removed non-teaching faculty women from the class, including librarians and research assistants. This cut the class in half and substantially reduced the financial ante.

Faculty Women for Equity will hold a panel discussion of the Penk case on Dec. 5 in the EMU Forum Room from 7 to 9 p.m.

Frye said she hopes to decide the case before the end of the year.

Sheela: 'Mom' of Rajneesh family

By Jolayne Houtz
Of the Emerald

Editor's note: This is the second of two stories exploring the people and the way of life at Rajneeshpuram.

After the Jonestown suicides and the jailing of Rev. Sun Yung Moon for tax evasion, the legitimacy of the 3½-year-old Rajneeshpuram seems tarnished in the eyes of many Americans.

And with the recent busing of 4,000 "street people" into the commune from 20 cities nationwide, the followers of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh are experiencing the antipathy of people who fear a Rajneeshee takeover of Oregon.

But Ma Anand Sheela, personal secretary to the 52-year-old Indian guru, scoffs at the idea that the Rajneeshees bused in street people to raise the number of eligible voters in an attempt to take over Wasco County.

"The only reason I remembered Election Day this year is because the media tried to shove it down my throat that 'You are doing it for elections.' And I said, 'Sure. If you want me to say that, I'll say it.' They don't understand my sense of humor," she says.

Ma Anand Sheela says the election results definitely will be contested, although she will have no part in investigating the process.

"I'm not a voter, I don't want to be a voter. Citizens are talking about it, that they're going to overturn the election. I have nothing to do with this, but anybody who needs support from me will get it," Ma Anand Sheela says.

For the most part, the program, which the commune leaders claimed was initiated to draw attention to the plight of the street people, has been "a thousand percent successful," Ma Anand Sheela says.

"The street people who came here and who stayed



Ma Anand Sheela

more than an hour with us experienced something different. Even if they leave, we have planted a seed in them, which is 'You can have a dignified life,' " says Ma Anand Sheela.

The entire issue of busing transients to the commune and the ensuing election controversy illustrate the bigotry displayed toward the Rajneeshees by Oregonians, Ma Anand Sheela says.

"I think we made fools out of them (during the elections). We created a situation and exposed the bigotry," she says.

"I've been all over the world, and I haven't seen the grossness that I've seen here. I've seen mediocre, average minds around the world, too, but I haven't seen

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