

# Eugene residents bring loved ones to rally

By Eric Lee

Of the Emerald

Armed with flowers, children, dogs and a llama, about 150 people gathered in front of the Eugene Federal Building Friday to show what would be lost in the event of a nuclear war. The rally was organized to protest the United States' failure to join the Soviets in a nuclear test ban.

Event sponsors encouraged those attending to bring and speak on something they love from the natural world, an act inspired by a traditional Native American custom.

The Soviet Union ended an eight-month nuclear test ban following a U.S. nuclear test in Nevada on April 10. The Soviets previously agreed to extend the ban until the United States conducted a test.

The Eugene Peace Choir opened the demonstration with three anti-nuclear songs and was followed by an hour-long open-microphone session. About 25 people of all ages spoke to the crowd about what they were afraid of losing in a nuclear war.

Kate Gessert, the emcee and one of the rally's organizers, said the idea of using animals and plants to emphasize a point came from her 10-year-old son, Joseph, who suggested people bring their animals after hearing her talk about the upcoming rally.

The primary purpose of the event was to get people involved, Gessert said, adding that those who are not involved still may care. Many people are discouraged rather than indifferent, she said.

"The last few years have been very discouraging. This week has been incredibly discouraging," Gessert added.

She said she hoped that as a result of the rally, "people

could make more connections and also would feel like they could do more work because they felt encouraged."

Demonstrations do not have any effect unless they motivate people to lobby their legislatures for change, she said. "I think by now people realize that Ronald Reagan doesn't want to end the arms race and that it will have to come through the legislature."

Olive Bowers, who helped organize the event, said the effect of protests is hard to measure. "Who knows whose heart you might touch?" she asked. "Politicians have families and a lovely environment too."

Bowers said she believes Congress should cut funding for nuclear testing altogether.

"I'm here because I really believe this is a time people

should get together, and it's a time with lots of turmoil in the world, and I think it's really sad that it's such a small gathering of people in such a crucial time," said University student Knox-Kinlaw, a physical education major.

A brown llama, called Carob Beener Llama, was the center of attraction during most of the rally. Mary Vogel, the llama's

owner, said she thought the animals brought out the best in people and that the people she had met while hiking always warmed to the llamas.

"I'd love to see all of our leaders go on a llama trek in the wilderness," she said.

The event was sponsored by Families for Survival and the American Peace Test.



Photo by Shu-Shing Chen  
Mary Vogel showed up at Friday afternoon's rally with her pet llama to protest the United State's failure to agree to a nuclear test ban.

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## State Board approves plan

**MONMOUTH** — All University students may soon be required to complete the equivalent of two years of a foreign language at the University level in order to graduate with a baccalaureate degree. A new foreign language requirement for the state's universities and colleges is just one of the 44 recommendations of a six-year strategic plan for the state's higher education system.

The State Board of Higher Education voted Friday to send the plan to the Oregon Educational Coordination Commission to meet its Thursday deadline. The commission is writing a comprehensive plan for Oregon education.

New academic requirements, however, will not apply to any student currently enrolled at a state university or college. Students may graduate under the academic policy in

use at the time of their entrance.

The strategic plan is not completed. During the next few months the State System will take the plan to the eight state campuses in order to get feedback on the proposal. A final version of the plan should be presented to the board in July, said Holly Zanville, an assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs for the State System.

Other new suggestions include improving teacher education programs, developing a statewide information system, identifying additional Centers of Excellence, funding an automated library system, and strengthening liberal arts and sciences cores.

Another suggestion is to develop a television network that would allow colleges and universities to transmit courses via television to other schools, industries or homes.

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