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Fit for a slug queen

Everyone participated in Saturday's Irish Festival Parade through downtown Eugene, even the city's Slug Queen. The parade was part of the Fifth Annual Eugene-Springfield Irish Festival. The festival will conclude on Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day, with a traditional Irish dinner sponsored by St. Alice's Catholic Church.

Photo by Maria Corvallis

FEMA Continued from Page 1

Up until Jan. 16, "We did not receive any objections from the state of Oregon," Mayer wrote.

"The bottom line is the question of whether the state of Oregon chooses to comply with the Federal Civil Defense Act, . . . which makes civil defense the joint responsibility" of federal and local jurisdictions, Mayer wrote.

In September 1980, Congress amended the act, addressing the worth of the civil defense program. The act reads, "It is the sense of Congress that an improved civil defense program should be implemented, which . . . enhances the survivability of the American peo-

ple and its leadership in the event of nuclear war, and thereby improves the basis for eventual recovery and reduces the nation's vulnerability to major attack."

Stating that his responsibility is to carry out the intent of Congress, Mayer wrote, "If you determine for the citizens of Oregon that this law is unacceptable to the citizens of Oregon, I recognize you must consider withdrawing from the exercise and not accepting or expecting federal funds."

Cogan said FEMA wants to work with Oregon officials to ensure the state gets the funds, but the agency must work within the realm of the law.

"Our goal is just to see that the law is complied with. We will not consider it a victory if we restrict funds. . . . We want to see the people from Oregon get as much as they can in the way of preparedness against all kinds of emergencies for the dollars they pay in taxes," Cogan said.

Goldschmidt also criticized FEMA in his letter for refusing to consider alternative scenarios suggested by his staff, "which would be acceptable by the state of Oregon."

Streisinger agreed, writing in a Feb. 20 letter to Mayer, "The 48 bombs dropped on the Northwest are concededly just to give each participating jurisdiction something to do during the exercise."

Streisinger suggested FEMA consider a scenario involving

multiple terrorists, saying such would be "more realistic and would provide an equal communications test."

In response, Mayer noted that three other northwestern states were involved. "We cannot be expected to negotiate the details of each scenario with four different states," he said.

The drills were originally scheduled to take place March 3-5 in Oregon and Idaho. Washington and Alaska have been asked to host the exercises March 31 through April 2. Alaska plans to participate in the drills, and Idaho already has.

In early February, Washington Gov. Booth Gardner withdrew his state from the drills.

He refused because he believed officials did not have enough time to prepare for and perform the drills, Cogan said. "We didn't accept that argument," he said, adding that FEMA extended the timetable anyway.

Cogan said Gardner's deadline for a response to the rescheduling option was Sunday.

Goldschmidt's response deadline is March 31. FEMA has not yet received a decision from Goldschmidt, Cogan said.

Letters to both governors from FEMA, which explain the consequences of non-participation, represent the first step in withholding the funds, Cogan said. Further action along these lines depends on the governors' responses, he said.

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