

Peace groups disapprove of war themes

By Jennifer Carlin
Emerald Contributor

Members of the Eugene community are worried that children here and across the country are being militarized and desensitized to violence because of increased exposure to war-related toys and cartoons.

Citizen Action for Lasting Security (CALS), in conjunction with Eugene Peace Works and the War Resistance League, sponsored an informational program Nov. 19 designed to increase local awareness of "War Toys and the Militarization of Children." The event included a video presentation and a panel discussion as well as a performance by the Eugene Peace Choir.

Statistics from the National Coalition against Television Violence show that since 1982, there has been a 700 percent increase in the sales of war toys throughout the U.S. The top selling toy is G.I. Joe. The statistics also indicate that in 1982, there were about 90 minutes of violent and war-related cartoons on television each week. Now there are 43

hours weekly.

Gerry Kemp, president of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 144, and father of three children, said there is little doubt that exposure to war toys and other military-type items is making it permissible for American children to become "warriors."

"There are reasons why this takes place," Kemp said. "Peo-

mental anguish after they blow somebody away. Nobody suffers inside. They're just a hero because they've killed the enemy."

Dr. Beverly Fagot, a researcher on aggressive behavior in children, said if children view aggressive television they will perform more aggressive acts.

Fagot referred to studies in which some children watching

'From what I've seen on television, nobody ever seems to die'

— Anna Grace

ple sit their kids down in front of the TV and the television becomes a surrogate (parent)...it works out real well. The real problem here is that kids think they are being entertained, and they don't understand that they are being educated."

"From what I've seen on television, nobody ever seems to die," said Anna Grace of the South Eugene High School Peace Club. "They never seem to show the realness of it. Nobody ever seems to have any

television may not be able to distinguish between fantasy and real violence. As a result these children can easily turn playfighting into the real thing. "If you do the behavior the emotions follow," she said.

Dr. Robert O'Brien, a professor with the University's Department of Sociology, said he fears that play and entertainment are possibly becoming training grounds for war. When kids play, they understand ag-

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Et al.

MEETINGS

MEChA, the Chicano/Latino Student Union meets tonight at 5:30 in EMU Room 16-D to discuss winter symposium, basketball tournament and recruitment conference.

The Student Campaign for Disarmament Peace Week committee meets tonight at 6 in EMU Suite 1.

Campus Crusade for Christ meets tonight at 8:30 in 146 Straub. Theme: Turkey night.

MISCELLANEOUS

Career Assessment Program will have an orientation meeting today at 2 in 237 Hendricks to help students discover personal and professional goals.

The Muslim Student Associa-

tion presents a video debate between Muslim scholar Ahmed Deedat and Rev. Jimmy Swaggart on "Is the Bible God's Word?" tonight at 7 in the EMU Forum Room.

LECTURES

The Ad Club welcomes journalism school alum Bob Rickert today at 4 in 238 Gilbert. Rickert will speak on life at a New York advertising agency, present a video and give job-getting tips.

"Images of Laos: A Decade After Liberation" is the topic of a lecture by Dr. Carol Ireson of the Willamette University Sociology Department today at 12 in 353 PLC. Dr. Ireson spent two years in Laos, and her presentation will include a slide show.

"Nutrition, Delicious Snacks" is the topic of a presentation tonight at 8 in the Carson Hall/Barnhart Dining Room, sponsored by the Residence Halls and the Lifestyle Planning Program.

"Versailles Then and Now: Dilemmas of Order and Exception" is the topic of a lecture by Professor Jean Castex of Versailles, France, tonight at 8 in 177 Lawrence.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et als are run only once. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Events occurring nearest the publication date and campus events will be given priority.

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