

Franciscan priest denounces U.S. nuclear weapons testing

By Maile Field
Emerald Contributor

"Stopping the testing of nuclear weapons would not only stop radiation dangers, but would end the arms race," said Franciscan Father Louis Vitale said Saturday.

Vitale, who was in Eugene for the fourth International Nuclear Free Zone Conference, was brought to campus by the Student Campaign for Disarmament.

Vitale's speech and slide presentation concluded a series of three lectures included in the Nuclear Free Zone Campus Symposium last week.

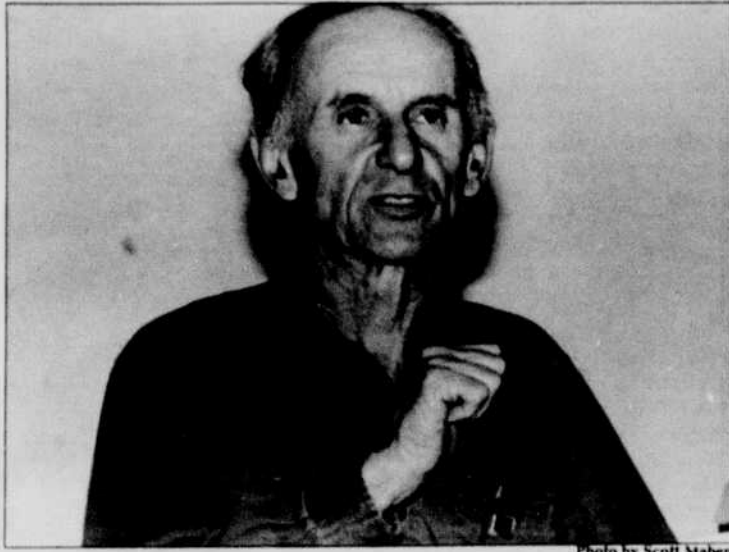
Vitale spoke about his experience at Nevada test site protests in which he has participated annually for the last eight years. His involvement has been through the church as part of activities for Lent.

Vitale said nuclear testing is "really risky" in terms of its impact on human life in the area. He also emphasized ending testing as a way to end the arms race.

The peace activist and religious leader said 16 million people have developed cancer as a result of testing done at the Nevada site, and one million have received fatal doses of radiation. "It's a known fact," Vitale said, "if you're working out there, you'll get cancer."

Vitale also denounced what he called U.S. disrespect for the 1863 Ruby Valley Treaty, an agreement between the government and Native American groups declaring the Shoshone tribes the legal stewards of the land where the nuclear tests are performed.

The activist said his protests began in 1981, 30 years after the first atmospheric test was conducted at the site, although other members of the Francis-



Father Louis Vitale spoke Saturday about his participation in protests against testing nuclear weapons. His speech was part of the Nuclear Free Zone Campus Symposium.

can community in Las Vegas began holding prayer vigils on the site in the late 70s.

In response to a question concerning the success of the peaceful protests and direct actions, Vitale said, "We do not have a test ban." He later added, "It will certainly happen, but I don't know how soon."

Vitale denied that his participation in the anti-testing demonstrations might be construed as mixing religion and politics. He said that almost every church in the United States has made a statement against nuclear testing. "We are just carrying it out," he said. "In a Democracy, its very important to express yourself."

Last April's vigil and non-violent protest, which draw 8,000 participants, resulted in the arrests of 2,000 people, according to Vitale, and was the largest civil resistance in the history of the United States. He said this year's protest, scheduled for April 7-16, is expected to include as many or more participants.

Photo by Scott Maben



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(An open letter to the student body of the University of Oregon)

We need your help! Our names are David and Doneta Thomason and we own and operate 3 Carl's Jr. Restaurants in southern Oregon. For those that are not familiar with Carl's Jr., there are currently 470 restaurants operating in California, Arizona, Nevada and Oregon. The company was founded in 1941 by Carl Karcher in Los Angeles, California. We are considered one of the west coasts premier organizations in the quick service segment of the food service industry. We offer a wide variety of menu selections, including charbroiled hamburgers, charbroiled chicken sandwiches, roast beef, fish, stuffed baked potatoes, salads along with a full compliment of beverages, desserts and even a full breakfast selection. We are not considered like many other stereotypical fast food establishments in that we have many items on our menu which are nutritional.

Why is any of this important? Let us explain.

Last year the board of directors and administration of the EMU along with the help of the Purchasing Department for the state of Oregon formulated a "Request For Proposal" to solicit bids from food service companies to provide a "Fast Food Style" restaurant in the Skylight Refectory. As invited participants we attended a pre-bid meeting in October at which time the entire bid process was explained to all potential contractors. All bids were due to be turned in by January 10th, 1989 in Salem. Despite the fact that over 10 companies initially expressed interest, we were the only ones to submit a proposal. We worked diligently and with good faith in the preparation of our comprehensive proposal. Due to the complexity of all that was requested, it took a tremendous amount of time and expense to formulate our bid. We had been told very early on, that even if there was only 1 bid submitted, and as long as it conformed to the bid requirements, that they would "Take it and run." So needless to say, we were extremely excited about the possibility of being able to serve the university community. There were only a few concerns that the Board expressed regarding our proposal, ALL of which were addressed to their satisfaction. This leads us up to last weeks EMU board meeting, where by 2 votes the current board voted to not accept our bid and to rewrite the specifications to allow for a Saturday Market type of establishment. This is most disturbing to us after all we have done to be accommodating, and particularly upsetting since Saturday Market had just as much of an opportunity to submit a proposal, but chose not to. It's also very apparent, after having attended the board meeting, that there is some strong personal bias towards Saturday Market that exists on the current board.

As we see it, there are 2 main issues that still exist.

1. Is it fair to us to have been induced to submit a proposal and incur all the time and expense to do so, only to be told at the last minute, "We've changed our minds about what we want." The current board has been in place since last September and had ample opportunity to make changes before now.
2. Is this boards decision truly representative of the majority opinion of the student body of the University of Oregon. Is it true, as one board member suggested, that the people of Eugene don't like our kind of restaurants. After all, isn't it the boards responsibility to keep in mind their constituency.

We do have our supporters, evidenced by the position taken by Lisa Nichols, Chair of the Board of the EMU, Adell McMillan Director of the EMU, Dennis Carr Food Service Director, among many others.

What do we hope to accomplish with this letter?

At the very most, possibly enough students would exert a substantial amount of pressure, thereby forcing the board to reconsider their position. At the very least, it will hopefully serve to inform people of what we feel is a terrible injustice to not only our company, but to the long term well being of the EMU.

Signed
Dave & Doneta Thomason



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