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Rally protests priests' deaths

By Jolie Andrade
Emerald Reporter

Over 300 hundred students, professors and concerned citizens rallied in front of the Eugene Federal Building Sunday afternoon to protest the recent bombings and killings in El Salvador.

The rally and accompanying vigil was organized and supported by the Committee in Solidarity with the Central American People, the University of Oregon/University of El Salvador Sister University Project, Clergy and Laity Concerned, and Witness of Peace.

"This (the rally) is a response to the whole 10 years that U.S. has waged war on El Salvador," said Rob Margraf, University Sister Project representative. Organizers held the rally as an emergency response to the murders of six Jesuit priests earlier last week.

"Our basic demand is to stop any further aid to the Salvadoran government," Margraf said, adding the sister university project also wants to stop the mobilization of U.S. troops in El Salvador.

"We are taking a whole day to make a statement to the Bush administration that we're not going to tolerate it," Margraf said.

"We're sending aid to kill people who are struggling for freedom in their own country," said Sara Lawton, CISCAP staff member.

"If we weren't sending aid, the ARENA government wouldn't last," Lawton said.

CISCAP is demanding that the U.S. government put an immediate end to all types of aid to the Salvadoran government, end all violations of human rights associated with the Salvadoran Armed Forces and death squads, and force the Salvadoran Government to negotiate a political solution to end the war, according

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Leave it to Loville

Duck tailback Derek Loville scampers into the end zone on a 4-yard run in the first quarter of Oregon's 30-21 Civil War victory over the Oregon State Beavers. Loville's 111 yards rushing put him into 10th place in the all-time Pac-10 rushing category. Stories on pages 5 and 8.

Photo by Mark Ylen

Ganging up on gangs

Gang anxiety hits the city; the city hits back

By Alice Wheeler
Emerald Managing Editor

Editor's note: The following is the first of a two-part Monday In-Depth series examining the gang issue in Eugene.

The recent controversial court injunction barring 18-year-old alleged gang member Robbie Robinson from the Eugene School District has created a surge of community interest and concern over the possibility of drug gangs establishing themselves in Eugene.

Eugene's location has made it a potential target for drug-oriented gangs moving crack cocaine up and down the West Coast via Interstate 5.

Drug gangs such as the Crips and the Bloods have taken over neighborhoods in Los Angeles, Calif., Tacoma, Wash., and Portland, marking their territory with graffiti symbols. Mistakes in and between gangs are not taken lightly.

"They are normally really territorial. They are possessive of the areas they live in," said Sgt. Rick Gilham, investigator for the Eugene Police Department. "Usually that's where you get the drive-by shootings, when somebody infringes on somebody else's area."

So far Eugene appears free of gang violence and crack. "There are no documented gang-related crimes in Eugene, like drive-by shootings. We've had some documented gang members here who have committed some minor crimes (shoplifting, theft), but it is not gang-related type crimes," said EPD Detective Dennis Williams.

"I think there's a good likelihood we'll have some gang crimes in the future," Gilham said. "Based on the fact that we are on the I-5 corridor, we have a large population base, and we have a large portion of drug users or abusers, that's going to attract some gang members down here."

"We have documented gang members from the Portland area and other places that have been in Eugene," he added. "There are some that have just been through, mostly, but there are a few that are living here."

Predictions Of Violence

Although some people believe local gang members may be trying to get away from the gang scene to get an education, "my suspicion is that they are here to basically scope the area out, see what they can do, what kinds of inroads they can make, and primarily for criminal reasons," Gilham said.

If gang activity increases, "we are going to see more vio-

lent crimes, see some shootings, some people getting hurt," he predicted.

Thus far there is little or no evidence of crack use in the community, although methamphetamine use is high, Gilham said. EPD has "no evidence that they (gangs) are selling meth, they are strictly selling crack cocaine at this point," he said.

However, gang concerns are not new to Eugene. Last winter's slew of racially-motivated hate crimes caused enough interest in the community to foster the formation of the Community Coalition for Gang Prevention.

The CCGP was started by a group of minority community members in February 1989. They met with law enforcement members to discuss how to deal with the racial-violence problems, said Jan Gund, chairperson of the CCGP coordinating council.

CCGP now stands with four subcommittees — business, education, youth and government — plus the coordinating council.

Hearing Concerns

Although CCGP has no policy-making power, it works within the community as a forum for concerns, and it helps to develop and promote plans

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Photo by Sean Poston

Grffiti on Eugene walls illustrate a possible gang presence.