

# Earth Day celebrated

By Pat Malach  
Emerald Reporter

Children playing with an inflatable globe, adults playing with mud, guest speakers and musical groups playing to enthusiastic crowds were all signs that Eugene's Earth Day celebration was under way.

More than 1,200 people took part in Sunday's celebration at Alton Baker Park.

A carnival atmosphere prevailed as participants were entertained by poets, reggae bands, the Eugene Peace choir and a full schedule of skits, speakers and community forums.

There were more than 100 concessions and information booths set up by political organizations and environmental groups of every kind.

Many of the groups were selling T-shirts, giving away and selling posters and bumperstickers and asking passers-by to sign petitions in support of their particular cause.

Eugene Earth Day event coordinator Freda London said unlike many of the other Earth Day celebrations across the country, the Eugene organizers tried to make sure that the event did not rely heavily on corporate sponsorship.

"Because of this, we need money from you to pay for this," London said to the crowd. She added that donations from the crowd and profits from T-shirt sales would help defer the cost of putting on the event.

"The tent donated to us by Safeway was the closest we came to corporate sponsorship," she said.

"Oregon Forest Issues — Diverse Perspectives" was a community forum that drew one of the biggest crowds.

Roy Keene, representative from the Public Forest Founda-



tion; Dan Woodrum of the Yellow Ribbon Coalition, and Tom Griesen of Oregon Natural Resources Council discussed their own views on the timber controversy and the idea that both sides of the issue must work together to find a solution.

Keene blamed profit-hungry corporations for strangling the resources out of Oregon.

"We need to break the grip the corporations have taken on our timber in the last 40 years," Keene said. "We need to stop the cutting until we know what is going on. If something in our strategies isn't working we need make the corrections now before there is nothing left to correct."

The real focus of the controversy should be on the corporations making the money from the timber, not environmentalists, laborers or a little bird, Keene said.

Woodrum, who described himself as a red-blooded, rednecked, blue-collared-American, said the plight of the laborer has been ignored. "Somebody's getting fat (from timber profits) but it ain't me," he said.



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