

Anti-war activists gather at "Stop the War" rally

Gulf war a waste of money and lives, say peace group members at rally

By June Russell
Emerald Reporter

More than 100 community members and representatives of several peace organizations marched from the EMU Courtyard to the Eugene Federal Building Saturday for a noon "Stop the War" rally sponsored by Eugene PeaceWorks and the Nonviolent Activists Network.

Led by the members of the Oregon Country Fair Marching band, marchers gathered with those waiting at the Federal Building to listen to music and speakers representing Earth First!, Womyn's Press, PeaceWorks and other organizations.

PeaceWorks rally organizer Frank Cardoza said health care instead of warfare was the theme behind Saturday's rally.

"There's a call throughout the nation," Cardoza said. "The theme today is bring the troops back alive and use the money for health care, not war. We also wanted to get people back at the federal building, and have people focus on the protest here."

Willow Kjellberg, PeaceWorks rally organizer, said the rally represented an effort to bring together different outlooks on how to achieve peace and the war in the Persian Gulf.

The rally was a real effort to bring together "different viewpoints on how to achieve peace," she said.

"We believe in non-violence as a means to solving problems," Kjellberg said. "War is not an acceptable alternative. We're also trying to give the community a place to come together for peace and support."

PeaceWorks volunteer Paul Hauelsen addressed the audience first, telling listeners to stay on their feet and protest the war at home and the war abroad.

"It took one of the largest invasions and bombardment in the world to get us to our feet in protest," Hauelsen said. "Let us stay there. There is war abroad and there is war in our midst. Do you see the war against women? Do you see the war against the poor?"

"This war in Iraq is wrong," he said. "Free Kuwait? Give



Photo by Jeff Paslay

War protesters marched Saturday from the EMU Courtyard to a rally at the Federal Building. The rally was an effort to unite people with different opinions on how to achieve peace.

me a break! Resist the creeping fascist state. Get the U.S. out of the Middle East now."

Earth First! activist Karen Wood told listeners the search for more oil is destroying the wilderness and our dependency on oil is killing the planet and ourselves.

"They're getting ready to

drill for oil in our last wilderness areas," Wood said. "It's extremely important to stop them from destroying our wilderness to suck a few more years off oil."

"If we don't change the direction we're going in, we're going to end up where we're going. Our president is an oil

man. The oil industry has more influence than the alternative energy sources.

To make real, lasting changes people need to work together, Wood said. They can protest the war in one way by not paying war taxes, which is the "greatest form of civil disobedience."

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