

# Exhibit depicts weapons protesters

By Ming Rodrigues  
Emerald Contributor

Down at the small showcase of the EMU Aperture Gallery, a stark exhibit of photographs captures the anguish, fear and fervor of protesters at the U.S. government's nuclear weapons test site in Nevada.

The images show face-offs with uniformed police officers played out in a stark landscape of wind-swept flatlands and distant mountains.

Linda Putman has a story about a desert storm of a different sort.

"There were many times when I was the only one on the scene with a camera," said Putman, a Salem resident. "I realized I was getting stuff that no one else would ever see."

In her numerous trips to the Nevada desert where Putman joined thousands of demonstrators demanding an end to underground nuclear explosions, more than 2,000 arrests made in non-violent confrontations between demonstrators and law enforcement officers.

It's a story with a strong local tie.

Salem has an active contingent of peace activists, and local members of a national group called the American Peace Test have been key organizers of protests at the test site, including the biggest one ever in 1988.

During her first visit there, Putman chronicled all she saw at the site, which is about 90 miles northwest of Nevada.

Putman, who felt the demonstration received relatively little national coverage, particularly in media with East Coast markets, said her opposition to nuclear weapons reached a turning point in the early 1980s.

She owned a bookstore in Laramie, Wyo., when federal officials decided to base MX missiles nearby. Soon after, Putman found herself covering the resulting controversy as a free lance reporter and photographer.

Not long after, she moved to Salem where involvement in American Peace Test followed, and she found herself at the test site in Nevada for the first time in March 1988. Putman recalled protesters spent much time huddled in tents as the desert winds howled.

She said she believes the former Soviet Union's move toward democracy has heartened those who sought to end underground testing.

"The dissolution of the Eastern bloc has allowed Soviet and Eastern European activists to join in fighting the testing," she said. "I see a lot of hope for us coming to terms with this problem."

Putman is also committed to helping the West Shoshone Indians on whose ancestral lands the installation is located.

The Shoshone refuse to accept government payment for their land and have emerged as vocal opponents of continued underground testing.

Putman's exhibit continues through March 14 from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Admission is free.

## DANCE

Continued from Page 6

ing by following a point of contact that flows between them.

Completely open to the public, "The workshop is for anyone interested in movement, communications, theater, and founding," said Alessi, co-founder of Joint Forces Dance Company, which produces Danceability. The main focus of the workshop is "the intent of movement with the intent of cultivating expression," he said.

Unique in dance history for

pioneering dance with both the able-bodied and the physically challenged, the workshop draws staff and participants from across the nation and Europe. The Monday evening event will include disabled participants from the former Soviet Union.

Joint Force's creativity and efforts have earned it several National Endowment for the Arts awards, including one to Alessi worth \$20,000.

While physically challenged forms might stand out the most, the 1991 workshop participant roster included just a few more able bodies than physically

challenged bodies — a "comfortable" ratio according to Paxton. This cross also creates another special opportunity, a profound interaction between the able and disabled.

It might help to have a few more able bodies to aid the challenged, but "the workshop is not about helping," Alessi said. "Of course it could be therapeutic. It's like, come as you are and that's good enough."

If Friday's introduction pulls you into contact improvisation, you can register for any day's activities on a sliding fee scale, running from free to \$100.

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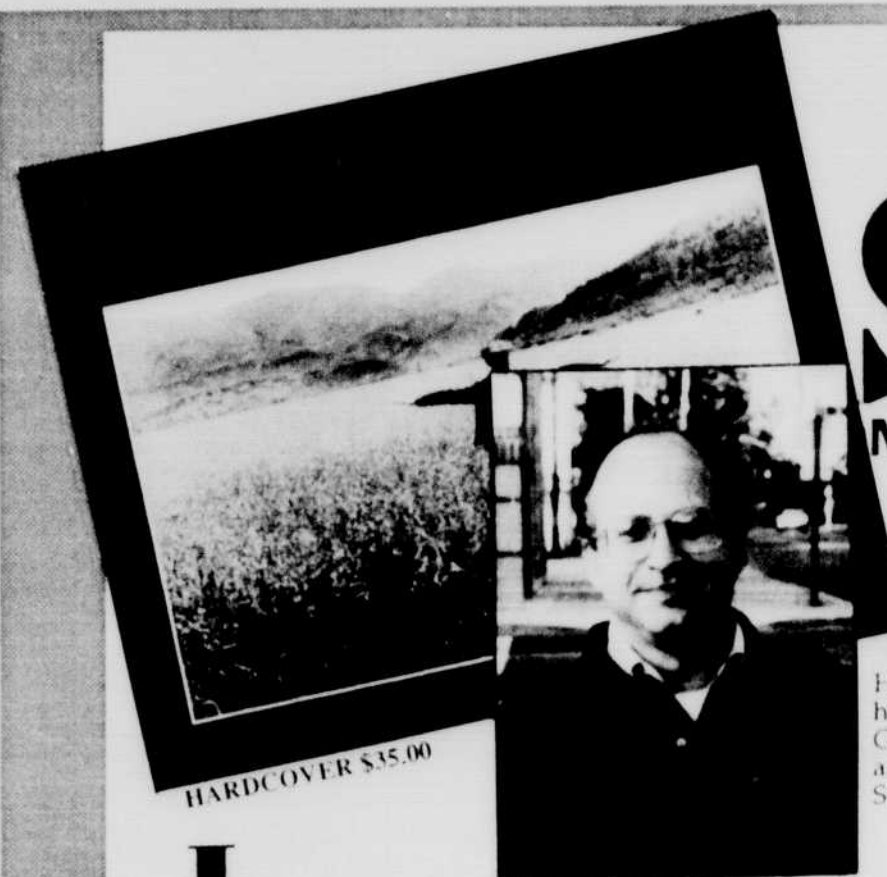


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# A Book Signing

March 12 • 12:30-1:30

**K**enneth T. Helphand

Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Oregon, will be signing copies of his book, *Colorado: Visions of an American Landscape* in the UO Bookstore General Books Department.

Helphand is a student of J.B. Jackson and received his master's degree at Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1972, and has taught at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and Ball State University.

In *Colorado: Visions of an American Landscape*, the state's physical space, its topography, and its resources are each closely considered for the effect they have had on human settlement and use. Understanding that the impact of people on land is huge, and sympathetic to the needs of people in all their approaches to the land, this work is not a polemic. It is a historical study for the layperson guided by principles of tolerance, pluralism, and a respect for places and the human interaction with those places.

Landscape, as it now exists suggests Helphand, is a legacy from the past, which may be squandered or invested. In revealing its history of human interaction, Colorado's landscape provides much to contemplate about the future of the American land.

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