

# Speakers rally for Bosnians

By Daralyn Trappe  
Emerald Associate Editor

The raping of thousands of women in Bosnia by Serbian nationalists is part of an effort to scare Bosnians into fleeing the area, speakers at a rally said Tuesday.

About 40 people attended the event at Eugene's Federal Building and listened to experts on Eastern Europe speak about why many Bosnian women have been taken to camps, raped, and sometimes killed.

Ronald Wixman, a University professor of geography, said human rights atrocities have been committed on all sides, in all parts of the world, throughout history, but never at the current level in Bosnia.

Serbian right-wing nationalists, known as chetniks, have always wanted a greater Serbia, extending to the Adriatic coast, Wixman said, and Bosnians have thwarted those attempts.

"That's what this war is really all about," said Wixman, who has traveled to Bosnia 12 times. "The chetniks and their supporters have adopted a policy of terror. Never has anyone attempted such a policy where people are mutilated in an attempt to force others to flee."

Carol Silverman, University associate professor of anthropology, said many of the women and girls are afraid to talk about their experiences. Humiliation, an attempt to forget and fear of reprisals against their families are the main reasons they fear speaking out, Silverman said.

"All Bosnian villages, whether Catholic, Eastern Orthodox or Muslim, have a strict moral code regarding female sexuality," she said. "Especially among Muslims, virginity is required for



Photo by Michael Shindler  
**April Higgins (left), a junior in cultural anthropology, and Jeff Thierfelder, a sophomore in architecture, hold candles at a rally protesting the systematic rape of women in Bosnia.**

women at marriage."

Rape is used as power, as retaliation, and as an instrument of control to destroy what a society values and protects, she said.

"Rape victims have suffered a psychological death or perhaps a fate worse than death," she said. "Many have said they would rather die than be in their present circumstance."

Both Wixman and Silverman denounced Europe and the United States for not tak-

ing a more substantial stand against the violence, and they urged people to write to government leaders on both continents. A petition that circulated will be sent to U.S. senators asking that women's rights be addressed at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna this June.

The rally was sponsored by the University chapter of Amnesty International, Islamic Network and Eugene Peace-Works.

# Bosnian airdrop likely; Clinton says risks small



SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — American pilots dropping food from high above eastern Bosnia could be hit by Serb missiles, and their bundles could smash houses or be lost, relief experts said Tuesday.

Serb commanders, suspicious of Western intervention, also warned the airdrops could lead to an escalation of the fighting.

But President Clinton said in Washington he believed "the risks are quite small" and vowed that American forces would not be drawn into the ethnic warfare.

The Washington plan, intended to reach about 100,000 isolated people, calls for high-altitude drops to protect U.S. pilots from anti-aircraft or missile fire. Pakistan said it was rushing a planeload of food and relief goods to Bosnia to be used in the airdrops.

But some experts expressed reservations, saying packages released at 12,000 feet, as discussed in the plan, could easily veer more than a mile from designated targets, and about a quarter of the supplies could be expected to fall into the hands of Serbs besieging the city.

"If we can get food or aid in any way, I'm delighted, but 12,000 feet?" asked Larry Hollingworth, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees operations chief in Sarajevo. "They are going to be landing on people's heads and people's houses."

"Road convoys are more accurate, carry more tonnage and are far more cost-effective," said Hollingworth, an intrepid man whose bushy white beard has become a common sight at Serb roadblocks, where he fights to get supplies through to besieged towns.

Hollingworth also said the airdrops would feed Serb suspicions that arms were being sent to the Muslims under the guise of humanitarian shipments.

In New York, Russia's U.N. Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov said he supported the airdrops, he insisted they should be a temporary solution. Airdrops, he said, "cannot compete with the land convoys."

Others, however, were more optimistic.

"If they think they can do it, then for goodness sake, let's go for it because the situation in some of these areas is really bad," said Sylvana Foa, spokeswoman for the UNHCR, in Geneva.

U.S. military airdrops to Iraqi Kurds following the 1991 Gulf War killed at least nine people on the ground, but Foa said Bosnian airdrops would be done in more spacious, rural territory.

Royal Air Force Vice Marshall Tony Mason, who helped coordinate relief drops in Ethiopia, Somalia and Iraq, said: "I think there must be a good chance of a fair proportion of supplies actually reaching the target."

Serbia-dominated Yugoslavia, meanwhile, warned the United States not to violate its airspace, but said it would not interfere with the drops.

Gen. Milan Gvero, deputy commander of the Bosnian Serb forces, said the U.S. plans were a prelude to "the massive use of military force and an escalation ... with unforeseeable consequences."

Flying at high altitude will not eliminate the threat of being shot down. Bosnian Serbs have surface-to-air missile systems at fixed sites around Banja Luka, their regional headquarters, as well as a few Orao fighter-bombers.

The Serbs have shoulder-launched missiles "that can hit a big target, like a transport plane, no matter how high it flies," said Paul Beaver, editor of Jane's Defense Weekly in London.



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