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Laura Roach and Lindsay Salmon light candles in support of peace Thursday night at the EMU.

AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

March: Participants give testimony

Continued from Page 1A

spend more on the needs of youth.

"As terrible of a tragedy as it is, it would be even more terrible if we didn't do something about it," he said.

The crowd cheered when State Senator Susan Castillo called for more communication and intervention with young people. "We need to do a better job of listening and talking to kids," she said.

Kiran Young, a University freshman, said news of the shootings made her feel like she needed to do something to pay respect to the victims.

"Some people in my dorm are upset and crying," she said. "I think they realize that it could have happened to them just a year ago."

Phyllis Barkhurst of Sexual Assault Support Services said the root causes of the trend in school shootings and the rape epidemic were the same.

"Not only is there something wrong in Arkansas, but there's something wrong here," she said, adding that the same media attention isn't given to the rape epidemic.

"When I heard the news about the shootings I felt shock and anger; but where's all the media attention when women are battered and raped?" she asked.

Marchers left around 9 p.m., shouting anti-rape slogans as they marched by police escort to Willamette and Broadway downtown where the drumming group Womyn at Play was performing.

Once downtown, several women gave person testimony of experiences they had with sexual violence.

"As I was walking tonight, I came to a conclusion: I will not be silent," said one woman who received a standing ovation in support.

Jack Straton of Men Against Rape told the crowd that society needs to re-examine how it socializes young men. He said other acts of violence committed by



Hundreds of marchers swarmed the streets of Eugene Thursday night during the Community Anti-Violence March.

AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

young male students shows a pattern in boys that needs to be changed.

"It's no mistake that each of these acts was committed by a young male," he said. "We need to focus less on not putting guns in the hands of young males, and more on not putting attitudes in the heads of young males."

March organizers said they are tentatively planning an event for next Friday that will deal exclusively with violence against women.

"When I heard the news about the shootings I felt shock and anger; but where's all the media attention when women are battered and raped?"

Phyllis Barkhurst
Sexual Assault Support Services

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