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Anarchists ask for accuracy

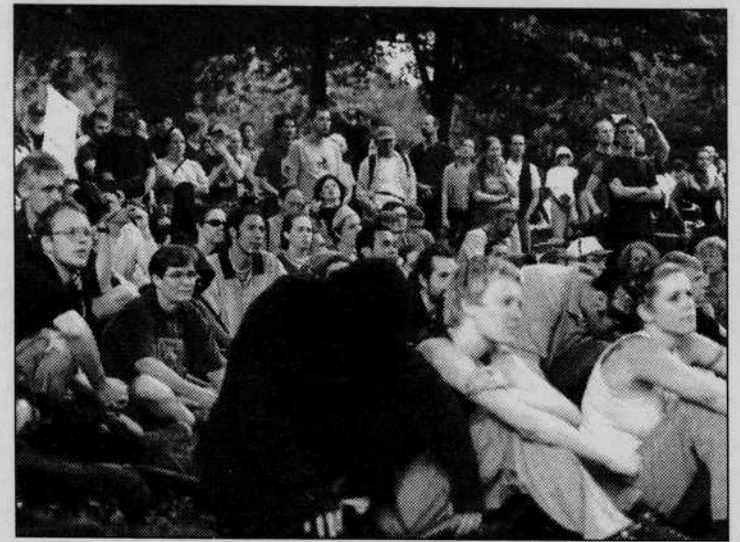
■ Not all anarchists fit the stereotype, and many have an alternative approach to the controversial philosophy

By Sarah Thompson
for the Emerald

Angry young protesters clad in black. Yelling in the streets. Breaking windows. Chaos.

Recent mainstream media coverage of events, such as the June 18 protests in Eugene and the World Trade Organization protest in Seattle, has added to the stereotype of anarchists as violent trouble-makers. However, the reality of the anarchist movement in Eugene is quite different than what the stereotype would lead a person to believe.

"Primarily, I think the media looks for the stereotypical anarchist to interview," said Audrey Vanderford, a self-proclaimed anarchist living in Eugene and a University graduate student in the folklore department. Her focus is on political pranks, with a specific interest in street performances at large protests, such as action at the World Trade Organization situation in Seattle. "Black-clad, young, white, male, angry, ungrammatical, spewing violent talk. It fits into the larger message that the mainstream media will always give, which is anarchist



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

This June 18 anarchist rally at Washington-Jefferson Park was for the most part peaceful and productive. Some anarchists say they get a bad rap in the media.

equals terrorist."

While some anarchists do fit the stereotype and do believe in violent tactics, they definitely do not represent the majority of the Eugene anarchist community.

Some are young, and some are old. Some dress in black and have body piercings; some don't. Some have attended the protests and police and have interacted with the police, but many haven't.

The truth is that anarchists are a very diverse group of people with different beliefs.

Shelley Cater is a 35-year-old anarchist and forest activist. She is also mother to two children and works on the crew of Cascadia Alive!, a public-access television show in Eugene/Springfield produced by anarchists.

"The textbook definition of anar-

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Women want their message heard

■ They stay out of the limelight, but female anarchists play an intrinsic role in holding the entire movement together

By Sarah Thompson
for the Emerald

When anarchists are portrayed, the images are usually of white males jumping on cars, smashing windows or yelling into a bullhorn in front of a crowd. That leads to the obvious question: Are there female participants in this movement, and if so, what role do they play within Eugene's anarchist community?

Just as there have been anarchists in the United States for a long time, there have also been females throughout history in the anarchy movement. Emma Goldman, one of the most famous anarchists in history, advocated issues such as free speech, women's equality, union organization and independence.

With her friend and fellow anar-

chist Alexander Berkman, Goldman published a paper called Mother Earth.

Between 1893 and 1917, Goldman was imprisoned several times on charges such as inciting riot, publicly advocating birth control and obstructing the draft, and she was even arrested once in Portland.

While the times and the issues may have changed, there are still many local female anarchists standing up for what they believe in, saying they have been inspired by Goldman's work.

However, they rarely stand in front of a camera or get quoted in the newspaper. There seems to be a reluctance, even refusal, on the part of female anarchists to interact with the media.

"I'll have a conversation with somebody [in the media] and spend at least three quarters of my time talking about what I envision to replace the structures that don't work," Shelley Cater said. "And the one quote that they'll use is how I feel about property destruction."

Cater is a 35-year-old anarchist, forest activist and mother of two, and when she recognized that the female perspective was missing from media coverage, she began speaking on behalf of female anarchists.

Eventually she stopped speaking with the mainstream media, feeling unable to control the negative spin that seemed to distort everything she said. However, Cater doesn't want the voice of the anarchy movement to be completely dominated by men.

"The reason I was talking to the media often was because there were

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