

Protest

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the training facility allows for other nations to have an adequate and capable military force. According to an article by Louis Caldera, secretary of the Army, the new institution will explicitly work to "solve regional problems, including resolving border conflicts peacefully, fighting drugs and organized crime, responding to natural disasters and supporting peacekeeping efforts."

However, 20-year-old Alder Phillis, a resident of Eugene and a University student, said the institu-

tion has only changed its name and its primary goals are still the same. She said the Eugene protest was only one of hundreds simultaneously held over the country to protest the reopening of what she says was a terribly corrupt institution.

"It's just one way to get protesters to cool off," she said.

Phillis said she was one of a half-dozen University students who were arrested by Fort Benning police when they refused to leave a demonstration on base grounds last fall. She said she was not comfortable releasing the names of the other students arrested with her but

did say they all were members of the Survival Center, an on-campus hub for progressive activism.

One passer-by, Gary Hiser, a Eugene resident and retired major in the Marine Corps, said the protesters needed to understand that the real issue in South America wasn't U.S. intervention but was instead that most aid shipments never reached the people they were intended to help. He also questioned the logic of protesting in front of the Federal Building.

"This isn't the federal courthouse anymore; it's all Bureau of Land Management," he said.

Standing behind a banner read-

ing "Stop U.S. sponsored Torture, Close the School of the Assassins," Phillis said she was happy with the turnout for the protest.

She said the day's protest would be her last chance for community actions, because she was leaving to join a women's health organization in Latin America to work on a thesis project.

Many protesters held wooden crosses on which they had painted names of people they said had been killed by soldiers who received training at the U.S. base. A few passing motorists honked in support of the crowd.

Foster said she did not under-

stand how the United States could maintain the position that its training offered stability when, she said, it most often only produced instability.

"You may get a totalitarian state stability, but that's only temporary," she said. "That will just rupture."

While she understood the need for the United States to play in active role in foreign affairs, she did not see the need for the type of intervention she said the Army's training center provided.

"We shouldn't have military answers to world problems," she said. "It's a failing policy. We need to re-think some things we're doing."

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Power

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But activists worry that increased production would set back environmental efforts. Randy Berggren, EWEB general manager, expressed this concern.

"We need to hold onto our principle of protecting the environment, despite the supply-and-demand issue," Berggren said.

Wyden said the government will not take an approach that will harm the environment.

Several members of the discussion suggested a market price cap to regulate electricity prices.

Steve Hickok, chief operating officer of Bonneville Power Administration, argued that price caps could do more harm than good.

"We are currently buying in an unregulated market," Hickok said. "If price caps went into effect in March, when we sell into the market rather than buy, we would be financially toast."

Other states have discussed selling off their hydroelectric facilities

into the energy market to pay for increased energy prices, something Wyden said won't happen in Oregon. Another concern was that such deregulation could result in a situation much like California's.

Energy Secretary-designate Spencer Abraham had previously been in favor of selling off Bonneville Power Administration and the energy industry, but Wyden said Abraham's feelings have changed.

"I'm encouraged by what Abraham's indicated: that he will break with the past and not sell off Bonneville," Wyden said.

Wyden said that if Oregon deregulates its energy industry, it won't be anything like California's "botched" efforts. Wyden will be taking suggestions from Wednesday's discussion to Abraham during a Senate confirmation hearing Thursday.

"This is an extraordinarily serious issue," Wyden said. "I will use all my energy and strength to follow up on the issues to provide clean, affordable power."

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