

Student cyclists ride for environmental change

■ Student Mass took Eugene by storm this weekend with a monthly ride through the city

By Lindsay Buchele
Oregon Daily Emerald

Rain lightly dotted nearly 40 student cyclists Friday afternoon as they gathered at the EMU Amphitheater.

Their mission: Bike through Eugene, get some attention and show that biking is fun and better for the environment than driving a car.

The group of bikers go by the name Student Mass, not to be confused with the controversial Critical Mass biking group, which has a history of conflicts with the Eugene Police Department.

Student Mass, started primarily by environmental studies major Robert Maris, was not a protest against anything, but was just a way to get students involved with biking and to get information out to the public about the benefits of cycling.

"We're showing that bicycle commuting is a fun way to get around," Maris said, while waiting for cyclists to show up for Friday's 4 p.m. start.

Students heard about the ride from

fliers and other students.

"This is something really fun to do with your friends," cyclist Wendy Martin said.

Maris had the idea for Student Mass after attending the Kyoto Protocol, an environmental convention in The Hague, Netherlands, with 174 nations represented, Maris said.

Maris learned that the United States makes up 4 percent of the world's population, but is responsible for 25 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, which cause global warming.

"After the conference, it depressed me that there is so much we can do to change, but we don't do it," said Maris, who acted as a U.S. youth delegate at the convention.

There were 47 other colleges and universities represented, and Maris made it a point to contact each school's representative to suggest Student Mass.

"A monthly bike ride is not only environmentally based, but is also fun student gathering once a month," Maris said.

Maris took the idea for the ride in part from the group Critical Mass, which organized similar bike

protests last Friday in Eugene, Portland and Seattle. He stressed, however, that Critical Mass' problems with Eugene police were not something that would be mirrored by Student Mass.

"Critical Mass works so well in other cities like Seattle and San Francisco," Maris said. "But in Eugene, the point has been lost due to the conflict with the police."

Critical Mass members have been arrested for blocking streets and have been cited for breaking traffic laws, EPD spokeswoman Jan Power said.

The Student Mass group made it a point to follow traffic laws, Maris said. Yet they were still trailed by EPD officers in patrol cars and on motorcycles.

"The police were a menacing presence because we had no intention of doing anything wrong," Maris said.

Before the ride began, Power said there would be no officers assigned to follow the group and officers would respond only if they heard of any trouble.

The EPD officers did trail the group, at some points making pace with the cyclists. Power said the offi-



Tom Patterson Emerald

Junior Chuck Holding, who named his Boston-handmade bicycle Fat Chance, is looking at a route map of Student Mass, which kicked off from the EMU Friday.

cers decided individually to follow the group, doing so because they observed a large group and were just making sure nothing went wrong.

Maris said the group did not appreciate the attention, and cyclists were even encouraging each other not to break any laws.

"If it's normal for the police to follow a group of cyclists obeying the

law, why don't they follow a traffic jam of automobiles?" Maris said.

Despite any discouragement from EPD, Maris said the trip was a success and will continue as a monthly tradition.

"Once we arrived back at the EMU everyone started cheering," Maris said. "We knew it was a complete success."

Harvard professor promotes breaking down barriers

■ The speech launched a three-day environmental conference which aims to bring scholars together

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

The environment is directly linked to who and what lives there, and what those living beings do to the environment will determine how it takes shape, said Richard Lewontin, professor of biology at Harvard University.

Lewontin's speech Sunday to a crowd of more than 300 at the EMU Ballroom began a three-day conference, "Taking Nature Seriously: Citizens, Science and Environment." The conference aims to break down the barriers that sometimes exist be-

tween scholars in environmental issues. Through several discussions on environmental issues, organizers hope to bring ideas and scholars from around the nation together.

In his speech, Lewontin addressed the interactions between organisms and their environment.

"Every organism creates its world, in an advantageous way for itself," he said. "This is true of every organism, not just people."

William Rossi, associate professor of English at the University, agreed with Lewontin.

"We all, in one way or another, participate in the environment," he said. "We are all ecological citizens."

Lewontin said there cannot be organisms without the environment, and the reverse is true as well. But often times, he said, organisms can produce the environment by their ac-

tions.

"Organisms by their activities, pick up bits and pieces of the world and construct an environment," he said. "They also construct it by seeking it out and making it part of their world."

Lewontin said organisms control how their environment looks. By evolving, they make the environment change with them. Just because they can control their environment, Lewontin said, does not mean they won't harm it.

"There is an environment out there," he said. "We can impact it some way, but only by disturbing it."

He said most living beings make it harder for the next generation to live.

"Organisms tend to destroy their environment and make it hard for their offspring to survive," he said. "We mustn't think of ourselves as

unique in this."

Lewontin said, while we may be different in many respects, humans and other organisms of Earth are much alike. Organisms store food for the winter while humans save money for times when they need it.

The conference focuses on the environment and its effects on those who live there, both human and non-human.

"We see this conference as only a beginning, one that begins in rich dialogue and patient listening as a first step in creating common ground," said Nancy Tuana, a University philosophy professor.

"We need input from citizens," Rossi said. "We need to talk as citizens of the environment."

Russell Tomlin, associate dean of humanities at the University, said this campus was a good location to

hold the conference.

"Oregon is a perfect environment for holding such a conference," he said. "We have a particular excellence in the natural sciences."

Tomlin said he hopes participants in the conference are able to take away with them a sense of self-awareness.

"The challenge is to remain self-critical in our views of ourselves as we are of others," he said.

Tuana said the conference is intended to break down the barriers between scholars of different disciplines.

It is important for "a renewed commitment to collaborative efforts to respond to environmental issues," she said, "and of the importance and possibilities of alliances between citizens, scholars and activists."

UO International Studies SUMMER 2001 Course Offerings

INTL 240 Perspectives on International Development
June 25- Aug. 17
Professor Mezahav

INTL 250 Value Systems in Cross-cultural Perspective
June 18-July 13
Professor Proudfoot

INTL 410 Global Perspectives on Disability
June 25- July 6
Led by Susan Sygall

INTL 407/507 Indian Society through Film
June 18-22, Professor Weiss

INTL 407/507 Women's Movements Around the World
July 9-13, Professor Weiss

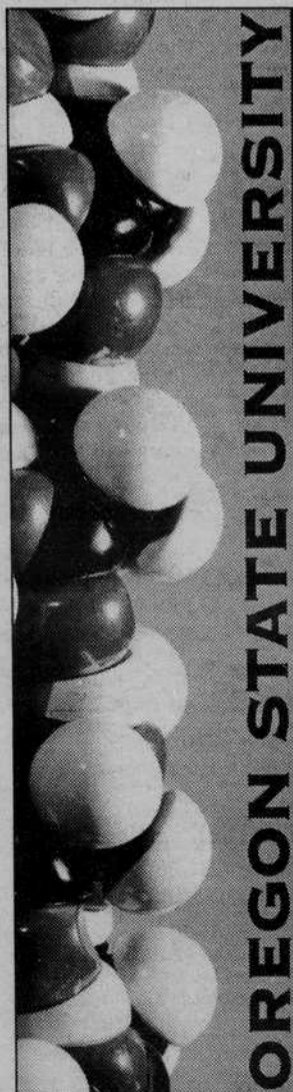
INTL 407/507 Southeast Asian Culture Through Film
Aug. 6-17, Professor Carpenter

INTL 407/507 Cross-Cultural Images of Childhood in Novels and Film
July 3- Aug. 3
Professor Carpenter

INTL 410/510 African Diaspora
July 23-Aug 17
Professor Mezahav

INTL 410/510 Ecotourism
July 9-20, Professor Ringer

INTL 432/532 Indigenous Cultural Survival
June 18- July 13
Professor Proudfoot

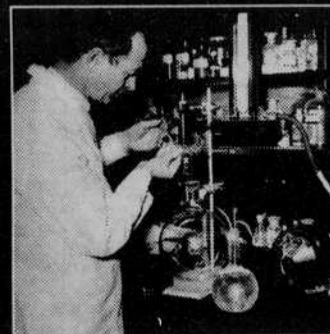


LINUS PAULING CENTENARY CELEBRATION

February 26, 2001
Linus Pauling
Biographical Films

"Linus Pauling:
Crusading Scientist"
"Linus Pauling:
A Century of Life and Science"

Gilfillan Auditorium
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



February 27, 2001
Reading of the Play
"The Essential Bond"

A play about the life of
Ava Helen and Linus Pauling

Produced by Soka Gakkai
International-USA

Organized by the Pauling
Heritage Committee

University Theater
(Withycombe Hall)
7:30 p.m.

For more information:
<http://pauling.library.orst.edu>

All events free
Open to the public

February 28, 2001
Campus Forum on
Linus Pauling

"A Liking for the Truth":
Truth and Controversy in
the Life of Linus Pauling

Keynote Speaker:
Ahmed Zewail
Nobel Laureate in Chemistry,
1999
"Timing in the Invisible"

Other Speakers:
Jack Dunitz
Tom Hager
Linus Pauling, Jr.
Robert J. Paradowski

La Sells Stewart Center
February 28, 2001
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.