

Students for Peace take message to the streets

■ In protest of the Afghanistan invasion, University students will rally on Seventh Avenue

By John Liebhardt
Oregon Daily Emerald

Pira Kelly is frustrated.

Kelly, a freshman majoring in linguistics, is frustrated about the U.S. government's reaction to the events of Sept. 11. "Millions of civilians are going to die," she said of the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan. "This is an inappropriate response to terrorism."

As a member of Students for Peace, Kelly will try to bring her frustrations to the street today at a 3:30 p.m. rally at the EMU Amphitheater. After meeting at the amphitheater, protesters will grab signs and placards and make their way down to the federal building at 211 E. Seventh Ave. to join other community peace groups for a candlelight vigil.

"I feel a complete sense of help-

lessness. Nobody voted for this war," said Marc Moscato, another member of Students for Peace. "The only thing I can try to challenge this is to persuade public opinion — to get a lot of people in the streets."

Moscato, a graduate student in arts administration, also admits to being a little frustrated trying to get the word out for his group's last two weekly marches, which yielded approximately 80 and 35 marchers, respectively. The relatively small membership of Students for Peace makes it difficult to publicize the marches, he said.

Harvard University's Institute of Politics reported that while large numbers of students approve of the war, the level of approval is not as high among students as it is with the general public. The study, which surveyed more than 1,200 undergraduate students, was conducted in mid-October and found that 68 percent of students supported the use of ground troops in

Afghanistan, compared to 80 percent of the general public. The study also found that 76 percent of students and 87 percent of the general public supported war against nations that harbor or shelter terrorists.

"I feel a complete sense of helplessness. Nobody voted for this war."

Marc Moscato
Students for Peace

College newspapers around the country report fluctuating numbers of anti-war protesters. The Pitt News reported nearly 300 people at the University of Pittsburgh rallying against the war Friday, Nov. 9. The rally also included 30 people defending government actions in Afghanistan. The Daily Free Press at the University of Boston reported 150 anti-war protesters outside the JFK Federal Building.

At the University, students and community members have expressed concern with the war, flocking to weekly teach-ins and staging protests.

However, Pam Alejandre, a spokeswoman for the Eugene Police Department, noted that this war has spawned less tension and fewer protesters than previous conflicts. "I don't think it's specific to Eugene, but peace marches and rallies supporting the war are very different from past wars," she said. Alejandre said the most serious offenses relating to protests happened on Nov. 9, when EPD cited seven protesters for disorderly conduct — which carries a base fine of \$255 — for blocking traffic on E. Seventh Avenue.

Although the peace movement seems to be off to a slow start, University Philosophy Professor Cheyney Ryan said organized peace movements take longer than a few weeks to develop. Ryan pointed out that protests of the

Vietnam War took five years to evolve into a discernible movement.

"It is not like something happens and the next day people will be out in the streets," he said.

Ryan also pointed out that after Vietnam, the government and military learned to deter war resistance. He said when the draft was ended by President Richard Nixon in 1973, the anti-war movement diminished because the draft had given youth a direct, personal contact with the war.

Another factor, Ryan said, is that the methods of fighting wars have changed. He pointed out that there is a lack of photos of flag-draped coffins and body bags, such as were seen in the Vietnam era.

"Since Vietnam, we have been fighting wars mainly by bombing," Ryan said. "This strategy is designed to minimize dissent."

John Liebhardt is the higher education editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at johnliebhardt@dailyemerald.com.

'Dead Man Walking' author to speak about Life for a Life Campaign

■ In her appearance at the McDonald Theatre, Sister Helen Prejean will address ending Oregon's death penalty

By Lindsay Buchele
Oregon Daily Emerald

She's been known to captivate audiences — and change their minds — with her southern charm.

The award-winning author of the book "Dead Man Walking," which was adapted into a 1995 movie starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn, Sister Helen Prejean has been known to bring people's guard

down. Now the woman who has been nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize and a Pulitzer Prize brings her message about repealing the death penalty in Oregon to the McDonald Theatre on Saturday.

Sponsored by the Life for a Life Campaign, Prejean's speech will detail her experiences with death-row inmates, including Matthew Poncelet, and speak to Eugene residents about repealing Oregon's death penalty.

Life for a Life began work against the death penalty in 2000, campaign manager Angela Harris said. Prejean, who is a nun in the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille convent,

has worked with the group since the beginning.

Her journey began when she was asked to correspond with a death row inmate at a time when she had had no experience with death row or the prison system. Prejean developed a pen-pal relationship with Poncelet and eventually went to visit him through the last days of his life.

"She didn't believe he was innocent," said Pam Donegan, a Life for a Life volunteer in Eugene. "Her book chronicles her conflicting emotions; eventually, she helped him accept responsibility for what he did and helped him prepare for death."

Prejean has been an advocate of abolishing the death penalty ever since.

"I have no doubt that we will one day abolish the death penalty in America," Prejean said in a statement. "One day all the instruments of death — electric chairs, gas chambers and lethal-injection needles — will be housed in museums. Let's begin in Oregon."

She has also worked with Murder Victim's Families for Reconciliation, trying to help victim's families not seek retaliation through the death penalty.

Barbara Nicholls, another Eugene volunteer with Life for a Life, said

Prejean changed the mind of Jim Rice, a local Democrat who was once an active advocate of the death penalty.

"After talking to Prejean, he changed his stance," Nicholls said.

"She's not what one would typically expect from a nun," Donegan said.

She will speak at the McDonald Theatre beginning at 7:30 p.m. shortly after a fund-raising dinner. A \$5 donation for the speech is suggested.

Lindsay Buchele is the community editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. She can be reached at lindsaybucheledailyemerald.com.




Authentic Chinese Cuisine
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE
947 Franklin Blvd.

343-4480

AN ARMY OF ONE

**IF YOU THINK A NIGHT
IN A FOXHOLE IS TOUGH,
TRY A LIFETIME IN A CUBICLE.**

The U.S. Army offers 212 different career opportunities in fields ranging from medicine, construction and law enforcement to accounting, engineering and intelligence. You'll be trained. Then you'll use those skills from the first day on the job. It's a great way to start moving in the direction you want to go.



Find One of 212 Ways to Be A Soldier
at **GOARMY.COM**
or call **1-800-USA-ARMY.**

Contact your local recruiter.
And we'll help you find what's best for you.


THE OREGON HUMANITIES CENTER PRESENTS

Maternal Love and Ambivalence

in the Pleistocene, the 18th Century, and Right Now

A slide lecture on the nature of motherhood and maternal instinct by primatologist
and award-winning author

Sarah Blaffer Hrdy



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2001, 4:00 P.M., 177 LAWRENCE HALL, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

This lecture is free and open to the public, and is followed by a book signing.
For information or disability accommodations, call (541) 346-3934.

The 2001-2 Luther S. and Dorothy Cecilia Cressman Lecture in the Humanities