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Forum aims to end bombing

■ The Community Alliance for Lane County urges peace and social justice to stop the bombing in Afghanistan

By Sue Ryan
Oregon Daily Emerald

Nearly 100 people filled the pews at the First Methodist Church on Tuesday evening to listen to speakers advocate using social justice to stop U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan.

"The U.S. government is using the attack to enhance its vision of the world," Martin Hart-Landsberg, a Lewis and Clark College economics professor, said.

He said current government policies are not being carried out to stop terrorism, but for a different purpose.

"It's maximum freedom for private profit-making," he said. "It's being used to push through trade agreements."

Hart-Landsberg, along with two other speakers, came to Eugene at the request of the Community Alliance for Lane County.

Organizers handed out tip sheets on writing letters to Oregon's congressional representatives, urging them to support halting the bombing of Afghanistan. Zaher Wahab, a professor of education at Lewis and Clark College, emigrated from the country to the United States. He said the current military action is only harming an already impoverished people.

"If we care about our own people, then think about all the people who haven't had a decent meal in three years, let alone a year. Work

on ending the bombing," he said. "We are a peace and social justice organization," alliance member Carol Van Houghton said. "We used to be called Clergy and Laity Alliance — back in the days of the Vietnam War when we first started."

The alliance designed the hour-and-a-half forum to be the first of a series of discussions and invited out-of-town speakers to stimulate the community.

"Because there have been other presentations on this subject, we did not want to repeat speakers," she said.

Community alliance spokesman Dan Goldrich said the next forum is tentatively set for January and will focus on crimes against humanity.

Emerald community reporter Sue Ryan can be reached at sueryan@dailyemerald.com.

Crisis

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department, said the chain of command among officials working the scene needed to be more clearly identified, a criticism Hicks acknowledged.

"There were decisions that had to be made," Grimm said. "And there was a lack of knowledge as to who would make those decisions."

Grimm said the most pressing decisions were whether to evacuate the building, when to inform employees and whether to shut down the building's air and heating system. Officials deemed the threat valid at noon because of the ominous language in the letter, which read in part, "Death to the oppressor."

Officials shut down the air and heating system in the area of Crasemann's office and notified physics employees. But because officials felt the area had been properly contained, they decided not to evacuate the building, said Dan Williams, vice president for adminis-

tration and finance.

Williams said those responsible for communicating crisis details to their employees will meet sometime after the holidays to discuss how the situation was handled.

The University Office of Communications, which handled the majority of calls from employees and members of the media seeking information about the mail threat, may also do some tweaking to its portion of the crisis plan this week, said acting deputy director Pauline Austin.

"I think there were a number of people who didn't have as much information as they wanted," Austin said.

Workers in the communications office normally disseminate information to an off-campus audience, Austin said, and they weren't sure which medium would be optimal for informing those on campus.

"We rely heavily on e-mail," Austin said. "But if we had tried to notify everybody via e-mail, it would have jammed the system."

The department aimed for a bal-

ance of e-mail, meetings and Web updates. Public safety officers also set up a hotline for those seeking the latest concrete information.

"The (crisis plan) is constantly evolving because people and circumstances continue to change," said John Crosiar, associate director of communications. "Obviously, this was a good trial run for how the current (crisis plan) operated."

Hicks said he was pleased with many aspects of the crisis plan.

"People were very cooperative and very understanding of our efforts," he said. "For people who work and go to school here, this was a disruption in their daily activities. But no one criticized our efforts. I think they understood the situation."

Some of those who understood the situation appreciated its aftermath even more.

"What went well is that it wasn't anthrax," Grimm said.

Emerald higher education reporter Eric Martin can be reached at ericmartin@dailyemerald.com.

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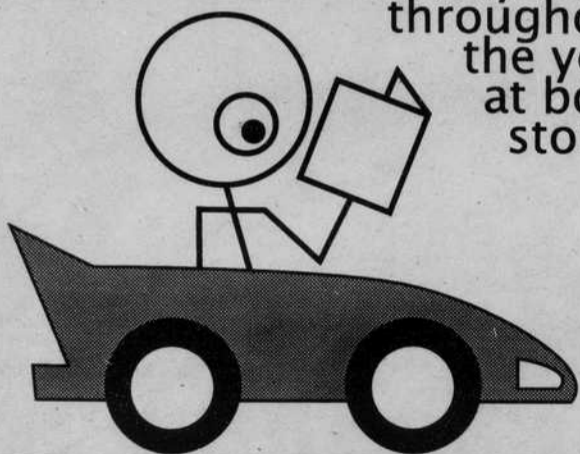
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