

Talk blasts U.S. policy, major media 'distortion'

Producers, journalists and musicians converged this weekend as part of a weeklong peace conference

Jan Montry

Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

Independent media producer Amy Goodman and investigative journalist Dave Lindorff joined other peace advocates over the weekend to speak out against war and emphasize the importance of alternative media. Hundreds of students and community members filled 150 Columbia on Friday and Saturday nights to hear the speakers.

The speakers were part of the weeklong "Peace, Justice and Civil Liberties Conference," which featured national speakers, workshops and other anti-war activities.

On Friday, Goodman, who produces a program called "Democracy Now!" on Pacifica Radio, outlined the importance of independent media in times of war.

"You look at the Persian Gulf War — 1991; Westinghouse owned CBS; General Electric owned NBC; Westinghouse, General Electric made most of the parts for most of the weapons in the Persian Gulf War," she said. "Is it any surprise that what we saw on television was a military hardware show?"

"No; we need something different. We need independent voices."

Goodman also blasted the media's broadcast techniques — such as a CNN anchorwoman covering herself with ashes from the fallen World Trade Center for dramatic effect — and distortion of how people feel about America invading Iraq.

"I believe right now, well over half the population of this country is not for the bombing of Iraq — not for a U.S. invasion — and yet we hear the



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Folk musician Dave Lippman performs at a peace conference in 150 Columbia on Saturday night. Lippman's numbers included "The 12 Days of Bushmas."

opposite," she said.

A recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll shows 59 percent of Americans "generally" support war in Iraq.

Besides accusing major press outlets of distortion and drama tactics, Goodman also blamed them for leaving out events she believes should be disclosed, such as a recent car bombing in Yemen.

"We do have a way to get the word out, and that is to take on the media in the same way we take on other institutions in the government," she said.

Lindorff also spoke on his experiences investigating the war on terror. He told Saturday's audience about how he signed up for the Terrorist Information Prevention System, or TIPS, which was a federal program that encouraged Americans to report suspected terrorists. Lindorff said when he called the tip line provided by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft's office, it turned out to be

the number for the show "America's Most Wanted."

It was "one of those things when you're a journalist and you say, 'Oh God, this is great,'" he said.

The weekend speeches were not all talk, however.

Folk musician and political comedian Dave Lippman, who calls himself the founder of the "national association of investigative songwriters," played guitar and sang comedic songs Saturday about the USA PATRIOT Act and the Bush administration.

The audience laughed and clapped as Lippman played "The 12 Days of Bushmas" and a song about the World Court.

"How many nightclubs can you go to and hear a song about the World Court?" he said. "This is the best nightclub in town, right here."

Contact the senior news reporter at janmontry@dailymerald.com.

PFC will examine group statements

Student fees at work

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee will hold a meeting today from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the EMU Board Room to review mission and goal statements for new groups, as well as for some existing groups who have submitted a budget.

PFC members review the statements to ensure they are legally compliant. Each review will take about five minutes and will be open to the public.

Mission and goal statements must

include an affirmative action statement ensuring that the group will not discriminate, and a legal compliance statement asserting the group's compliance with state and federal guidelines for fee-funded groups.

Group representatives are not required to attend the hearing because the PFC already has mission and goal statements on file.

Should the PFC not accept a statement, however, it will be tabled until a hearing with the group can be conducted.

—Jan Montry

Mission and goals hearing schedule for Monday evening

- 6:00 — Pre-Dental Club
- 6:10 — Public Relations Student Society of America
- 6:25 — Muslim Student Association
- 6:30 — Philosophy Club
- 6:35 — Students of the Indian Subcontinent
- 6:40 — Oregon Marine Students Association
- 6:45 — Oregon Future Lawyers Association
- 6:50 — University Pit Crew
- 6:55 — Pocket Playhouse
- 7:15 — Pacific Islands Club
- 7:20 — Oregon Law Students Public Interest Fund
- 7:25 — Minority Law Students' Association
- 7:30 — Native American Law Students Association
- 7:35 — Outlaws
- 7:40 — Quiz Bowl
- 7:45 — Pre-Health
- 7:50 — Office of Student Advocacy
- 7:55 — Westmoreland Tenants' Council

Source: ASUO Programs Finance Committee

**STUDENT NIGHT
TONIGHT!
15% ALL FOOD**



Gourmet Café Food
Deli Sandwiches
Salads & Wraps
Awesome Desserts
Over a Dozen Beers

**Flying Dogs
Café & Deli**
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4pm—Midnight

Today's crossword solution

J	A	M	B	A	D	O	B	E	S	M	O	G	
A	J	A	R	C	O	L	O	R	P	I	N	E	
P	A	T	E	T	R	I	N	I	I	D	O	L	
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P	A	O	L	O	S	H	A	N	E	N	O	N	
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Monday, November 25**

Between 1 and 3pm
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Room B13

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