



Adding their voices

Hundreds of students rally against war, joining other campuses in a nationwide day of action

Jenny Sherman
Freelance Reporter

"Justice, not war," "Peace is patriotic" and "One planet, one future, one people" were a few of the visual messages sprinkled around the EMU Amphitheater at the Campus Day of Solidarity rally Wednesday. Similar rallies took place at universities across the country for the National Student/Youth Day of Action.

Students for Peace organized the University event, aiming to inform students about the nation's foreign policy and urging them to be activists for peace. Speakers, ranging from students to faculty members and peace activists to war veterans presented their ideas about overseas conflict with historical facts and personal accounts.

"It is time for us," said University graduate student Mario Sifuentez, who said he promotes multiracial acceptance and student activism. "Now is the time to face the greatest evil in the world — oppression."

Rally organizers expected anywhere from 100 to 200 people to attend, but at times there were close to 300 attendees.

"There are a lot of outraged people," said University junior Roger Snell. Snell said he has always been an activist for peace and believes that if there is war in Iraq, the University will see more rallies.

The speakers talked about proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and international negotiations involving oil and money, cheers and hollers from the crowd punctuating their words. Some passed around a petition calling for the University administration to declare a stance against the war.

Vietnam veteran Ed Reiman spoke about the recently passed Homeland Security Bill, and the negative effects he said it will have on health care and the economy.

Student and Oregon Army National Guard member Bill Hamman said that not only would a preemptive attack on Iraq be unjustified, but that he "refuse(s) to shed innocent blood. Not for oil, not for Bush, not for anything."

Protesters of the rally, although greatly outnumbered, held "Bush/Cheney" signs and shouted out their support for the government. Vincent Matorano, a University student and member of the Campus Republicans, said he enjoyed the rally.

"I think it's great. It's democracy at its best," he said. "We are the minority, and we want to show our support for the current administration."



A slew of students gathered in the EMU Amphitheater Wednesday afternoon to protest the impending war with Iraq, and others gathered to voice their support for military action (above). Rally attendees marched from the Amphitheater to outside Johnson Hall (right).

Mark McCambridge (above) Emerald
Adam Amato (right) Emerald

Students for Peace, a collaboration of three peace activist groups, plans to hold more rallies and teach-ins to educate students and promote peace activism. According to student Melissa Jencks, one of the rally's organizers, such events are important.

"We have to work from the bottom up," Jencks said. "If the national government won't listen, we'll start with our local government."

Sophomore Alex Gonzalez, a member of Students for Peace, said the group has more than 300 members and that they hope that the rally encouraged students to use their voices.

"Students are the key," Gonzalez said. "They have nothing to lose, yet they have everything."

Twenty-eight year old Margarita Smith, a student and mother of two, said she agrees

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Eugene groups respond to KUGN

Local groups offer solutions in the KUGN debate, and one of the controversial shows also raises concerns in Portland

Jennifer Bear
Campus/City Culture Reporter

Several campus and community groups have been gaining momentum in response to perceived racist comments made by nationally-syndicated radio hosts on KUGN-AM. Although the groups agree that radio personality Michael Savage's show is offensive, opinion differs on what to do about it.

The University has a contract with KUGN, making the station the official local carrier of University athletic programming and also permitting the station to market itself as "the voice of the Ducks."

RADIOACTIVISTS, one of many groups formed in response to the content of KUGN's talk radio programming, is concerned with what they feel is a talk radio monopoly by right-wing hosts.

George Beres, a founding member of the coalition, said the nation's airwaves have been flooded with talk radio programming that is slanted toward conservatives. The group took issue with the perceived bias, and are now considering starting their own local radio show.

"What we want to do is get on the air with a progressive program as an antidote to the hate radio we're drowning in," said Beres, a former sports information director for the University Athletic Department.

ASUO originally suggested that the radio station air a disclaimer to distance its talk radio programming from the University. Beres said the approach wasn't aggressive enough.

"We have to challenge them and make it very clear that racist broadcasters cannot be on the same station that broadcasts Oregon games," Beres said. "Oregon sports are such an attractive commodity that it will be no problem to find another station to broadcast Ducks athletics."

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WEATHER

Today: High 55, Low 40, continued fog turning sunny
Friday: High 55, Low 38, partly sunny with morning fog

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday
Has the police presence faded in the West University?
Monday
Win (definitely) or lose (not), Civil War coverage starts here

Smokeout raises tobacco awareness

The Great American Smokeout aims to honor those who have died of tobacco-related illnesses

Jillian Daley
Family/Health/Education Reporter

For smokers who long to quit, today is the day to begin.

The American Cancer Society is holding the annual Great American Smokeout, a day designated to raise awareness about tobacco and to honor those who have died of a tobacco-related illness.

The University community will have a chance today, during a noon to 2 p.m. Smokeout event in the EMU, to commemorate those who died from such ill-

nesses by posting pictures and personal stories on the Wall of Remembrance.

"My picture's up there because my grandpa died of a tobacco-related disease," said general science senior Katie Collins, a peer health educator. "He had three heart attacks and never gave up smoking, so he finally died of it."

Smoking increases the risks of illnesses such as cancer, emphysema and other respiratory problems and heart disease, according to the American Cancer Society.

The Peer Health Educators program, the student group that organized the campus event, will be giving away hospital bracelets that can be inscribed with
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Danielle Hickey Emerald

Peer Health Educator Claudia Le helps student Natalie Davis fill out a remembrance card for the Wall of Remembrance that will be featured at the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout today.