

NEWS

Monday, March 17, 2003

Marching for peace

Eugene residents 'celebrate life' in spirited protest

Aaron Shakra
Pulse Reporter

Thousands gathered in Eugene on Saturday for the "Celebration of Life Against War" rally to protest potential military action against Iraq, making one thing clear for the local peace movement: its numbers are growing.

A crowd gathered at the Erb Memorial Union shortly before 12 p.m., when the march was scheduled to begin. A group of percussionists led protesters down the streets as they spiraled through campus and marched down East 11th Avenue.

"We had over five or six blocks of solid people," said Alexander Gonzalez, an organizer with Students for Peace, one of the groups responsible for the event.

Protesters were boisterous in their expressions of dissent regarding a potential war against Iraq, chanting slogans such as "Hey hey, ho ho, George Bush has got to go." Oil, money and power seemed to be the predominant themes of concern, based on signs such as "Pure injections of oil" and "What would Jesus bomb?"

In spite of the anti-war theme, disparate opinions abounded. Speakers at the Federal Building also addressed the USA PATRIOT Act and U.S. military intervention in Vietnam.

Midway through the rally, a count of 5,000 was announced onstage. Sarah

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Portland peace rally draws an estimated 45,000

Aimee Rudin
City/State Politics Reporter

They came in groups of twos and threes. They came with their children, their parents and their brothers and sisters. They came with strangers to make a statement about peace and the dangers of war.

On Saturday, organizers estimated that 45,000 people met at Waterfront Park in Portland and marched shoulder to shoulder through downtown, chanting, praying and singing for peace. The rally, organized by the March 15th Alliance for Peace and Justice, which is a part of Peace and Justice Works, was one among numerous peace demonstrations occurring throughout the world on Saturday.

The theme for Portland's mobilization was "Stop the war in Iraq and at Home: Rally for Peace in the Middle East."

U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., was the

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Above: A variety of people marched from the EMU to the Federal Building in Eugene this weekend.
Adam Amato
Emerald

Left: Giant papier-mâché puppets of George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld were centerpiece in the peace march in Portland on Saturday.
Erik Bishoff
Emerald

keynote speaker at the rally. He spoke to the crowd just before the march began.

"I say to you, all of you, everyone here today — by being here today you will send a strong message to Washington and to the world," he said. "The people around the world will not be inspired by our missiles, our bombs or our guns. They will be inspired by our ideas. We must continue to stand up and

give peace a chance."

Lewis was one of the planners and a keynote speaker at the 1963 March on Washington. Last October, he voted to oppose the House resolution authorizing military force against Iraq.

"For those who argue that war is a necessary evil, I say you are half right," Lewis said.

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Military offers perks, service

Many University students double as ROTC cadets or serve in the Army National Guard

Jennifer Bear
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

Even as the possibility of a war between the United States and Iraq creeps closer, a number of service-minded University students relish their chance to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Senior history major Ann Aliese Stokoe is in her second year of Reserve Officer Training Corps and said she loves the path she's chosen

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for her life. Stokoe added the Army has held a special fascination for her because it's in her blood — she has three brothers on active duty and a father who's retired from the Army.

Stokoe's family discouraged her from becoming an officer and told her it could be a life-threatening task, but she would not be swayed.

"They realized the danger I am accepting by trying to be in the Army," she said. "And if there's a choice about what Stokoe to send, I want to go in my brothers' places."

For students who are interested in joining the Army but want to be issuing commands rather than receiving them, ROTC may be the solution. Lt. Col. John F. Sneed, a University military science professor, said Army ROTC is designed to prepare college students to be leaders of soldiers. He added there are 80 cadets enrolled in the program this year at the University, about 20 of whom are female.

Stokoe said she did not want to enlist in the Army as a regular soldier, which is why she joined ROTC. She added officers get a few more perks than enlisted troops, such as a higher pay scale and the right to complete their education before they become a commissioned officer. While the main focus of students enrolled in ROTC is to earn a degree and learn basic officer and leadership skills, Stokoe said they weren't the driving forces behind her decision to become an officer.

"I got involved in the Army because I want to serve my country," Stokoe

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ASUO elections

Candidates drop out

The ASUO political field has become a little less crowded — again. Citing a previously unread rule in the Green Tape Notebook, election officials have determined that a student can only run for one political position.

The news surprised student Adam Turcott, who was running for four po-

sitions including ASUO Student Senate Seat 15, social science, as well as a midterm seat on the Associated Students Presidential Advisory Council, an at-large EMU Board seat and a spot on the Building Fee Committee.

Turcott said he'll still run for the senate seat but has withdrawn from the other races. He is planning a write-in campaign for the Building Fee Committee, however.

"I feel I have a lot to give to the students," he said. "I'm interested in the

Read more online

A revised list of ASUO candidates is linked to this story at www.dailyemerald.com

buildings and the restoration of them."

Other hopefuls also were forced to withdraw, including Jesse Harding, Jonah Lee and Greg McNeill, who were each running in two races.

Harding remains in the race for EMU Board Finance Senator Seat 8

and like Turcott, dropped out of the ASPAC contest for the midterm seat, leaving Jonathan R. Kloor as the uncontested candidate for the position.

Lee withdrew from his run at the Student Recreation Center Advisory Board to concentrate on his candidacy for Seat 16, science, which leaves Courtney Warner as the only candidate eligible for one of three two-year terms on the rec center board.

McNeill will remain an Executive candidate along with running mate

Jarrett White, but has withdrawn from the Programs Finance Committee At-Large one-year term, leaving opponent Joseph Snyder unchallenged.

In other campaign news, Kevin G. Berhanu has dropped out of EMU Board Finance Senator Seat 9, leaving three contenders for the position. Also, Nathan Hunt told the Emerald he is dropping out of Athletic Department Finance Committee Senator Seat 7, leaving two candidates for the position.

— Brook Reinhard