

Speech: Alexander encourages audience to 'become fluent'

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to say that by emasculating the enemy and placing suspicion on immigrants and foreign students, "the state" has created the "hetero-masculine patriot."

"Every decade since the second world war has been marked by U.S. intervention in other countries," said Alexander. She also mentioned that the American flags everyone was waving around following the Sept. 11 attacks were made by immigrant labor while we were being encouraged to believe they were the enemy.

Alexander suggested her audience read both The PATRIOT Act and the national security act to get a better understanding of what is

really going on.

In conclusion, Alexander said ignoring the empire-building and the imperialism is a "dangerous privilege," and encouraged "becoming fluent in the struggles of the person next to you."

Alexander's visit was supported by the Rethinking Security: Gender, Race, and Militarization Program, the Ethnic Studies Program, the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, the ASUO Women's Center, the Multicultural Center and the departments of anthropology and sociology, Director of Women's Gender Studies Julie Novkov said.

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Silence: Mayor and student leaders among rally speakers

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"Today has been intense," said Sheldon High School junior Kenda Pitetti. "There was a little bit of opposition from teachers but we had a really good reception from students."

"No matter where you are in the school system you are still fighting the same oppression," said Jet, a Lane Community College student, who uses only one name. "They are fighting similar oppression that I fight on a daily basis in my college classroom. I am going to show solidarity."

The Day of Silence is a nine-year-old project that started with more than 150 students on the University of Virginia campus in 1996. The project has grown since then and has become a Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network project in collaboration with the United States Student Association.

The event is student-led. The silence represents the suppression that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies experience on a daily basis from discrimination,

prejudice and harassment. Students participating in the Day of Silence gave out fliers that explained why they weren't speaking.

"Please understand my reasons for not speaking today... My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by harassment, prejudice, and discrimination," the flier read.

"It lets people stop to think about what it means that people are being silent," University senior Maceo Perrson said.

Speakers at the rally included Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, Elise Self, co-chairwoman of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and various student leaders. There was an open mic at the event to give participants an opportunity to discuss their experiences.

"It was a good walk," University senior Ryan Minor said of the march to the high school. "Some people honked; I didn't hear anything negative really."

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IN BRIEF

Afghan leader seeks U.S. military partnership

KABUL — Catching U.S. officials slightly off guard, Afghan President Hamid Karzai is seeking a long-term security partnership that could keep U.S. troops there indefinitely and make permanent the military relationship that began when American forces invaded his country in 2001.

Karzai made the statement Wednesday at a news conference with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who was reluctant to discuss the Bush administration's level of interest in giving Afghanistan security guarantees.

Pressed several times on this point, Rumsfeld said it was a matter for President Bush to decide. He noted that the United States had pledged to remain a friend to Afghanistan and help rebuild the country.

However, when it came to the question of a permanent military presence here, "We think more in terms of what we're doing rather than the question of military bases and that type of thing," he said.

In Washington, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said "discussions are ongoing" with Karzai on future security arrangements. "I don't want to speculate about anything beyond that,"

he said.

It is not clear whether Rumsfeld would favor a long-term military presence in Afghanistan. Some believe he would prefer a more flexible arrangement for U.S. aircraft overflight rights and possibly access to an Afghan air base for occasional training, refueling and other activities.

The Pentagon has already made such arrangements with other Central Asian nations. Rumsfeld generally favors that approach because it is less rigid and less expensive.

At the news conference with Rumsfeld, Karzai appeared eager to talk about his hopes for a permanent relationship with the United States, which he said would be built on economic as well as military pillars.

Karzai said he had consulted many of his country's citizens about "a strategic security relationship," with the United States that could help Afghanistan defend itself and deter foreign aggression.

"The conclusion we have drawn is that the Afghan people want a long-term relationship with the United States," Karzai said. "They want this relationship to be a sustained economic and political relationship and most importantly of all, a strategic security relationship to enable Afghanistan to defend itself, to continue to prosper."

Karzai said he has discussed this with Bush, but now plans to formalize the request. He did not say when.

—The Associated Press

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