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TAKING ACTION

BUST BUSH BOUTIQUE

"Some of these fashions are really blunt, and with John Ashcroft cracking down on peace activist organizations, it takes guts to wear them," says local activist Carol Berg.

Berg and a collection of "Peace Elves" have been busily gathering up high quality used clothing from St. Vincent de Paul, Goodwill and garage sales and recreating them into peacewear. Hats, jackets, scarves, purses, dresses and T-shirts sport logos from the more benign "Imagine" to more in-your-face slogans on Army and Marine shirts that have been redesigned to show the connection between the military and corporate oilfare.

The fashions will be for sale at the "Bust Bush Boutique and Peace Fashion Show" this Saturday and Sunday at 1970 W. 13th. Mistletoe, transformed into "Peace-L-Toe" will also be for sale, "to get and give the kiss of peace," says Berg.

The event, a coordinated effort of Eugene PeaceWorks and CALC, is designed to be fun, lively and creative — and to benefit a good cause. Proceeds will go to the Committee for Countering Military Recruitment (CCMR), a subcommittee of Eugene PeaceWorks that works to educate lower-income high school students who are being targeted for recruitment by the U.S. military.

Different branches of the military have been calling some students seven or eight times, promising them tempting amounts of college tuition money and student loan forgiveness programs if they sign up.

"There will be no college for those who come home in body bags," says Berg.

Many of those working on this project have been under a cloud of despair since the Iraq war began, but as they have transformed the materials into art, so, too, have they become transformed and uplifted by the art "that speaks out for peace," says Berg.

As to the logos emblazoned on the attire, from peaceful to more outspoken, Berg says, "Even Christ upturned the tables of the moneychangers because they polluted his temple. The current regime is polluting our world. Even peaceful people reach a point where they have to take a stand." — *Aria Seligmann*



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