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news Briefs

TWO MORE ARRESTED

Eugene peace activists Peg Morton and Trudy Maloney were arrested at the Wayne Morse U.S. Courthouse Monday, March 12 after they refused to leave Rep. Peter DeFazio's office. Morton and Maloney and others from the Occupation Project (www.vcnv.org) had spent the afternoon at the office praying for DeFazio to listen to his conscience and pledge to vote against Bush's request for supplemental funding to continue the Iraq War. Pam Garrison and Rich Klopfer were arrested at DeFazio's office March 5.

Social justice advocates across the nation are engaging in local campaigns of sustained nonviolent civil disobedience at the offices of lawmakers who have not publicly pledged to vote against additional war funding. Campaigns have emerged in 19 states, and more than 160 people have been arrested over the past several weeks, including seven people in Sen. Gordon Smith's Portland office.

PERSIAN NEW YEAR

The Persian New Year is upon us, but not everyone is celebrating. President Bush has identified Iran as part of the "axis of evil" out to destroy America, and U.S. warships have



Everything on a Persian New Year table has symbolic value

been deployed within striking distance of Iran. The Pentagon has identified weapons made in Iran being used against U.S. troops.

But the Iranian people, also known through history as Persians, have deep connections with the U.S., and Persian cultural centers are in every major U.S. city. In Beverly Hills, Calif., nearly one fifth of the city's population is of Persian descent, and the local voters pamphlet is printed in English, Spanish and Farsi, the predominant language of Iran and Afghanistan.

Lane County has only about three dozen Iranians, according to Sariborz "Borzi"

Winter blahs | Spring ahs

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