

PASSIONS RAISED AGAINST WAR

Rally one of Portland's largest

(AP)—A peaceful but passionate parade of protesters marched through downtown Portland Sunday to denounce the war in Iraq as it enters its fourth year.

The rally and march, named "End the War, Begin the Peace," was co-sponsored by some 160 organizations. Portland police estimated the turnout at about 10,000 and reported one arrest on a minor charge.

It took the parade, with marchers eight to ten abreast, nearly an hour to pass.

"A year from now, which one of

you will be a Gold Star family member," asked Steven DeFord at a pre-march rally. His son, Oregon National Guard Sgt. David Johnson, 37, was killed in Iraq by a roadside bomb in September 2004.

"If 64 percent of the United States thinks this invasion is wrong, where are they?" he said. "What if I had done more? I live with that thought every day."

"It is time now for you to take back your country," he said.

The Rev. LeRoy Haynes Jr., a veteran of the Student Nonviolent

Coordinating Committee that arose in the 1960s and the Black Panther movement, said the Sept. 11 attacks were extreme terrorism but the war in Iraq is "unjust and immoral."

"We will not give up our democracy to Bush and Cheney," he said. "We say no to an administration who asks our sons and daughters to fight for democracy in a foreign nation while they steal it from us at home."

Iraqi journalist and activist Eman Ahmed Khamas told a cheering crowd that the war "is the worst



Children are among the thousands of protesters at Sunday's march against the Iraq War. Hand-made signs with anti-Bush sentiments also dot the sea of humanity flooding the downtown streets.

PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

human rights violation a country can do" and said those responsible should have to answer for it.

"A powerful country does not have the right to eliminate other nations," she said.

While a sea of peace signs and anti-war slogans bobbed above the marchers, President Bush was the target of hundreds of more: "Fire the Liar," "Impeach the Evil-doer." The terrorist lives in the White House.

Many motorists honked and flashed peace signs in support. There was little visible opposition, but two men along the edge of the march held a banner reading "Bombs for God."

The protest drew people of all ages. Some arrived in wheelchairs and many brought children in strol-

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— Rev. LeRoy Haynes Jr., Allen Temple CME Church



ers and dogs on leashes.

"Bones, not Bombs," read a sign attached to one pet.

Though the Iraq war was the focus, some protesters brought other issues, such as education, immigration and a general unhappiness with the Bush administra-

tion. Ramon Ramirez, who heads a Woodburn-based farm workers' union, said the war was anti-immigrant and he wants to see democracy restored to this country. "It's not about the war, it's about changes in our country," he said.

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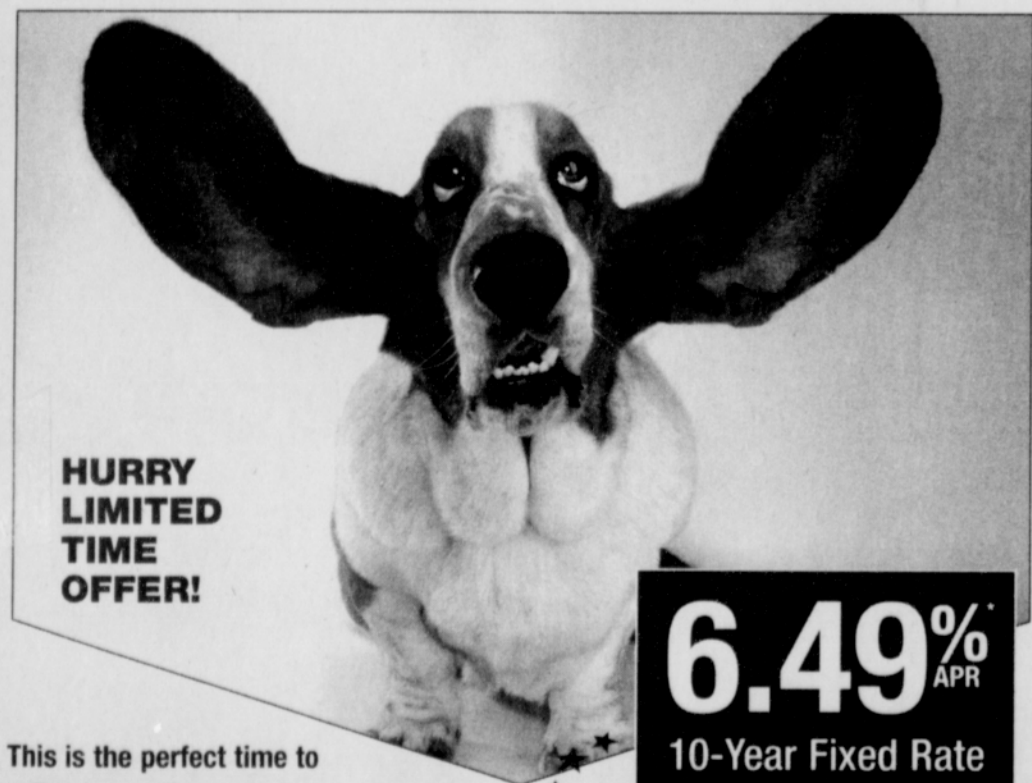
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Bishop T.D. Jakes to Visit Portland

continued ▲ from Front

"The Lord is moving New Beginnings onto new levels of life-changing ministry to the city, the nations

and beyond," Pastor Brad said. "That is why we must finish the course and remain strong in our resolve to arise and build our heritage of freedom."

New Beginnings is part of a cultural movement across the country, with churches that reach thousands locally, along with global outreach.

"For this time in history, God has called certain leaders to lead movements," Cole said. "We happen to call them mega churches."

Church members also meet in smaller groups, around 200 groups gather around the city each week. New Beginnings is proud to be Portland's largest multi-racial church in Portland

"We believe God created all people," Cole said. "In order for us to worship and really learn, we need to embrace all nationalities."

They also embrace Christianity's Jewish roots, and support Rabbi Joseph Shulam's ministry in Israel. Each year Shulam flies to Portland to teach biblical roots in a Torah class.

Makowski said to understand the Bible, Christians must understand the customs and traditions during the time of Christ.

The church's grand opening event this summer is a four-week spread, designed to establish bonds with the community. New Beginnings is inviting city dignitaries in the Gresham area, will honor local police and fire departments and plan to invite and donate funds to the school district. Cole said they will invite Shulam to blow a shofar at the celebration.



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