

Inner-act impaired by lack of discussion

By JOHN AJE
Of the Emerald

Inner-act faces a social barrier.

"The major problem confronting Inner-act," said Don Mason of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce and a member of Inner-act, "is that of bringing minority groups and long-haired to sit down at table and engage in fruitful discussion with the influential businessmen. As long as the businessmen are making the buck they don't see any reason for such a discussion."

Mason went on to explain how such a discussion can lead to a rational reconciliation of diverse views and conflicting interests.

He made these comments last Wednesday night in his Eugene Hotel office while speaking about the role of Inner-act and its newly proposed community services building.

Inner-act is a joint program of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce and the University. Its main role, according to Mason, is that of "bringing old and new together."

Not much is heard about Inner-act because of the way it operates. It doesn't organize many programs of its own but it acts as a link between, and last resort for, about 12 community services agencies.

They are: Action Now, ESCAPE, Canterbury Center, Looking Glass, White Bird, Eugene Youth Hostel, Switchboard, Community Skool and various drop-in centers.

Some of these agencies operate under tight budgets and they seek help from Inner-act in getting some of their administrative and secretarial jobs done.

Mason said the newly proposed community services building will make the community agencies less dependent on Inner-act and will give them a place to identify with. Mason feels the absence of adequate office space is a serious impairment to the success of many of the community services.

A recent statement released by Inner-act reads, "Although the downtown area is being renovated through the efforts of the Eugene Renewal Agency, there are many community service programs that are faced with finding suitable office space

for their programs. Office space outside of the renewal agencies condemned buildings is scarce and costly. At present there are no plans for the building of or provision for community service organizations. Many community service agencies are forced to pay a relatively high percentage of their budget for rent.

"Inner-act proposes, in cooperation with United Appeal, the providing of a service to the community by establishing and

managing a community services building. The building would provide a central headquarters for community action programs while providing support in the form of office and meeting room facilities."

The building proposed for these services is the eighty-year-old former Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity house, located at the southeast corner of the intersection of 16th Avenue and Patterson Street. The proposed

budget for the building is \$11,200 a year.

The building is residentially zoned and Inner-act will have to get permission from the City of Eugene to use it as a conditional office space. Mason feels getting this permission will not present any problem.

The main problem that faces the implementation of the building proposal is getting each community agency to come up with enough money for down-

payments and promises for at least a year's rent, he said. Each agency would be required to pay according to its ability. Since most of these agencies are poorly financed and with the recent budget cuts, getting enough money from the agencies is indeed an obvious problem, he said. Mason said any deficit could be made up with donations from the public through the help of the United Appeal organization.

It is proposed that the ground floor areas of the building would be used for day care and after-school care programs administered by Canterbury Center and Children's Community Skool. The present Canterbury day care center is inadequate and not properly zoned, he said. Thirteen upstairs rooms would be rented to educational and charitable organizations, "which are in need of reasonably priced office space."

Inner-act will meet at 7:30 p.m. today in the Eugene Hotel to discuss further the building proposal.

Free drug analysis nears

By DAVID DRELICH
Of the Emerald

A free, anonymous drug analysis project is one step closer to reality, according to Mark Miller, director of the University Drug Information Center (DIC).

A closed meeting between Miller and Lane County District Attorney Robert Naslund Wednesday produced an agreement that the DIC should seek the cooperation of the Oregon State Police in conducting the analyses. According to Miller, a University-connected laboratory would not provide enough security for the handling of the drugs.

"I'm hopeful"

"Naslund realizes the need of the project and thinks it will be of benefit to the community," Miller said.

"I'm hopeful that we can do something," Naslund said. He cautioned that, "we're still in stages of talking."

Talking between Miller and Naslund reached a sticking point as the result of "two or three" misunderstandings, according to Miller, including one on how drugs would be turned in. Miller

emphasized people turning drugs in to the DIC for analysis would remain anonymous even to DIC personnel.

A person wishing to submit drugs for analysis, according to the tentative understanding worked out between Naslund and Miller, would first phone the DIC to advise the center that the drugs were being sent. The donor would then be given an identification number over the telephone. His name would not be taken. "I don't want to see any faces around here, I don't want to know any names," Miller said.

After the assignment of the identification number, the drugs are to be mailed to the DIC "without a return address," according to Miller. "We would then let the person know the results of the analysis by use of his identification number through the appropriate media outlets," he said.

Strictly anonymous

Miller emphasized that, if the state police agree to this arrangement, drug samples submitted to the police crime lab would remain strictly anonymous. Miller will seek an appointment with Holly Holcomb, superintendent of the state police.

Naslund suggested the arrangement with the state police crime laboratories since, according to Miller, the state police have offered to handle the drug overflow in the district attorney's office. A serious drug problem does exist in Eugene, according to Naslund.

"We will accept any form of illegal drug," Miller noted.

Similar projects have already been set up in Portland, Palo Alto, Cal., and at the University of Maryland. Miller noted that there have been problems encountered with the federal Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs by analysis centers, but said that these could be overcome.

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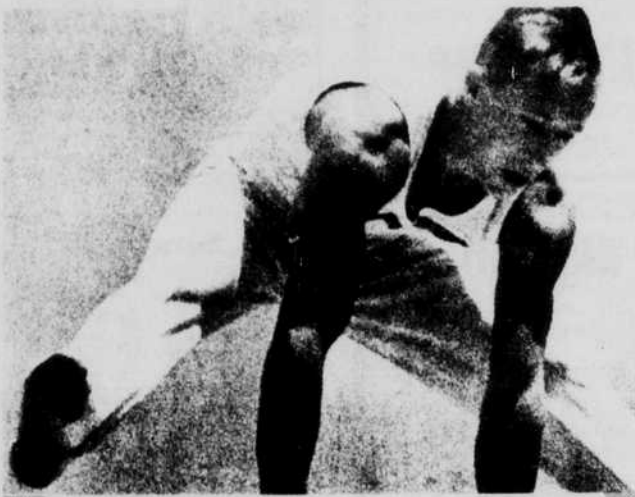
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