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'Nerve center' for legislative information in Portland

An "attempt to bring divergent political groups together" and "create a broad-based coalition," is the goal of a legislative information clearing house and drop-in center in Portland called the Legislative Action Center

R.G. CASAGRANDA & ASSOCIATES

THANK U. OF O. STUDENTS FOR THEIR PATRONAGE

Richard G. Casagrande
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(LAC). LAC is headed by Len Bergstein, a New York University law graduate and VISTA volunteer.

"We are not a lobbying group," Bergstein said, speaking at the monthly meeting of the Inter-Institution Union of Student (IUS), Saturday morning at the EMU. "We attempt to inform groups about what is going on."

The LAC does not take a position on legislation but serves as a communication and coordination center, or as Bergstein likes to call it, a "nerve center."

The office at 601 W. Burnside, Portland, attempts to maintain current information about the progress of bills in the legislature. The office averages

30 to 50 phone calls a day. The number is 226-4739. However, Bergstein suggests that students interested in the current status of legislation call the toll-free Salem number first. If the Salem operators are not able to help, then call LAC. The LAC number is not toll free.

Bergstein thinks that the most important function LAC serves is the forums and seminars that are conducted on a weekly basis.

LAC publishes a weekly newsletter called "Legi-Slate." The newsletter is, according to Bergstein, the most effective "community education" program undertaken by the center.

Labor union, University impasse break sought

A second mediation session between the University and the Oregon State Employees Association (OSEA) will be held

Tuesday, concerning a new two-year contract for the University's classified employees.

The second mediation session became necessary when a first session, held last Thursday, generated no results in resolving the differences between the two parties.

The sessions are being conducted by a state conciliator from the state's Public Employee Relations Board.

According to University officials, and a recent University News Bureau release, a main point in the current dispute between the University and the OSEA is whether or not classified employee groups other than OSEA can hold meetings on campus.

Correction

A story in Friday's Emerald reporting Oregon's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution incorrectly stated that the amendment is completely "dead" in ten states. A Washington D.C. spokesperson for the liberal lobby group Common Cause reported that the amendment is "dead" in three states, but only for this year, despite an erroneous report on NBC that the amendment was permanently "dead" in ten states.

The spokesperson explained that each state can reconsider ratification every year until 1979 when 38 states must have ratified the amendment or it will be considered permanently rejected.

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