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Without donations, DIC won't last long

Director Mark Miller still hopes for \$20,000

By KATHY McMANUS
Of the Emerald

The University Drug Information Center is still short about \$20,000 on this year's operating budget, and center director Mark Miller is still hoping that individuals and area businesses will show their appreciation of the center through donations.

"The real question is not whether the DIC will survive. The question is whether Lane County wants to stop drug abuse," Miller says.

If it fails to raise the money by Jan. 20, the educational and informational resource center will shut down, and Lane County residents will lose a positive and effective approach to drug education, he says.

Miller says he is taking his donation requests to area businesses and explaining the benefits of a center designed to prevent legal and non-legal drug abuse.

"If that's not important to them, then after five minutes they can throw me out of their office," he says. "But I don't think that will happen."

Many people have an inaccurate image of the DIC and the services it offers, Miller says, adding that about half of the services are aimed at prescription drugs and callers more than 30 years old.

The award-winning DIC ran out of money Dec. 31, and a state hiring freeze has required it to "reactivate" its accounts by Jan. 20. After that date staff members cannot be re-hired if they leave their jobs. Four of the six full-time staff members have been working without salary this month.

A request for \$12,500 in emergency funds has been submitted to Lane County, whose county commissioners are expected to act on it next week. The center has also asked for emergency funds of \$3,000 to \$5,000 from the University.

A complete shut-down is the only alternative if a lack of funds persists through Jan. 20, Miller says.

"We can't cut back," he says. "What we have now is the minimum without tearing apart the core of DIC."

The interdependence of the current staff and the care taken with the center's complex resource network point to the need for retaining the entire staff, Miller says.

"We must have a reliable information base that is accurate and up-to-date," he says, adding that much of the data is scientific and requires trained personnel to sift through it.

"It's to be professional, or it's to be shut down."

The problem the DIC faces is shared by other social service programs as a general "cut-back" attitude spreads, Miller says. "We're being hit sooner because we're small fry," he says.

More and more service agencies will need to go to a private funding base for the money government no longer provides, he says.

Of his own effort to tap private funding sources, Miller says, "Hopefully, I'm establishing a clientel that will realize the obvious need for DIC."

A jog-a-thon is planned for Jan. 20 at 1 p.m. at the University Hayward Field. Participants, who should find sponsors to pledge a certain amount of money to the center for each lap the runner completes, can pick up entry forms at the Drug Information Center, 1763 Moss St.

"We're encouraging any campus organization to come forward and sponsor DIC services," Miller says.

All donations to the DIC are tax-deductible.



Photo by Keith Allen

This desk, where all phone calls, information, services referral and drug identification and analysis take place, will remain permanently empty after Jan. 20 if donations of at least \$20,000 do not arrive at the Drug Information Center at 1763 Moss St.

House start-up hanging by one vote

By DANA TIMS
Of the Emerald

SALEM — The galleries are full while members of the Oregon House struggle to elect a speaker. And those who sit and watch aren't just family and friends.

Many secretaries and staff members have little to do with business halted, so they gather when the House comes to order

and wander off still frustrated at adjournment.

"We don't even know where to hang our coats," complained John Stewart, staff member to Rep. Rick Bauman, D-Portland.

Another aide, a veteran of three sessions, hasn't even gotten the key to her representative's office. In fact, only senior House members have been assigned of-

fices. Newcomers are waiting, hats in hands.

"Luckily," said an admittedly bored secretary, "I'm on payroll, which is better than a lot of people who are just hanging around here."

Unlike their spectators, House members have much to do. But they can't quite seem to do it.

In three identical votes Wednesday, members agreed by a 30-26-4 count that they couldn't agree.

Rep. Hardy Meyers, D-Portland, is one vote short of the leadership. But the 26 Republicans are remaining as kosher as the Tel Aviv Hilton behind Minority Leader Gary Wilhems.

Meyers claims to have met with the four dissident Democrats, any one of whose vote could get him elected and start the organizational process. But he claimed to have no room left to negotiate.

"I'm not authorized by the Democratic caucus to compromise any further," said Meyers.

By promising Salem's "gang of four" that it would be given a voice in making commit-

tee assignments, Meyers hopes to move any one of them to his side.

"We're going to get participation from minority segments within the caucus," he explained. "And we plan to hold a vote after each meeting with them (the four) in case there is some change."

After the tallying of yesterday's second vote, it was clear the deadlock would remain, withstanding all optimistic forecasts.

Rep. Nancie Fadeley, D-Eugene, kneaded her hands and said, "I think we'll get it soon."

But Wednesday's last vote sent a gallery full of staff members home as in doubt as when they arrived.

And cynicism became apparent on the floor itself, born of frustration.

"Somebody change a vote?" wondered one representative aloud.

"You've gotta be kidding," answered another.

The stalemate will leave its marks. Much personal bitterness has been expressed.

When the House finally elects a speaker, it may well be doubted if the word "organization" can, in any sense, apply.

today

A Polish sexologist has just finished a three-month sojourn at the University studying American sexual culture. For his impressions turn to **Page 3**.

Lane County Commissioner Archie Weinstein is back in the news. The same group that called for his recall last November says evidence points to an election law violation and that Weinstein should be punished. Story on **Page 4**.

Gov. Victor Atiyeh has proposed removing \$10 million from the State Department of Energy and the director of that agency says he can live with Atiyeh's recommendations. See **Page 8**.