

Speakers explore alternative methods

Energy savings outlined

By MOLLY INGRAM
Of the Emerald

Information-sharing on cutting energy costs at home and the discussion of strategies for furthering the transition to appropriate technologies brought nearly 100 people to the First Methodist Church in Eugene Saturday.

The major emphasis of appropriate technology is to work on separating the powers of big business by "mainstreaming" sophisticated attitudes and ideas, said Lane deMoll, former editor of Rain magazine and co-editor of Stepping Stones magazine.

"The rightness of the ideas is hitting home, enabling and empowering the little people," deMoll said during a keynote address that began the conference.

She outlined an integration of systems that neighborhoods or small towns could utilize in development, including the composting toilet and greywater system, resource sharing, food cooperatives, recycling, transportation and birthing and self-care.

"These same things happen in urban situations with all of the same elements, tools, learning experiences that apply," said deMoll.

"The key is developing local and self reliance. Sharing skills and resources is what it's all about."

By using a positive approach,

we develop strengths in "our own way of doing things," she said.

Other speakers at the conference summarized project presentations by alternative groups such as Waste Transformation, Whiteaker Neighborhood Energy Project, Sunenergi, Portland Sun and others.

The afternoon session of the conference was devoted to workshops, where each group presented its project, which served as a starting point for discussion in areas of interest.

The Responsible Urban Neighborhood Technology ran a workshop on how people with small budgets can remodel a house to be energy-efficient.

RUNT, a Portland-based project headed by Valerie Lee and Tony Shapiro, remodeled an older house donated by the city of Portland from a low-income neighborhood.

RUNT is funded through grants, fundraising and materials being donated from suppliers, said Lee.

The RUNT members said some applications of appropriate technology in the average home are:

- A solar water panel on the roof that would provide hot water.
- An attached solar greenhouse inside the attic solar collector to start plants early for a garden and to help heat the house.
- A bottle wall which would ab-

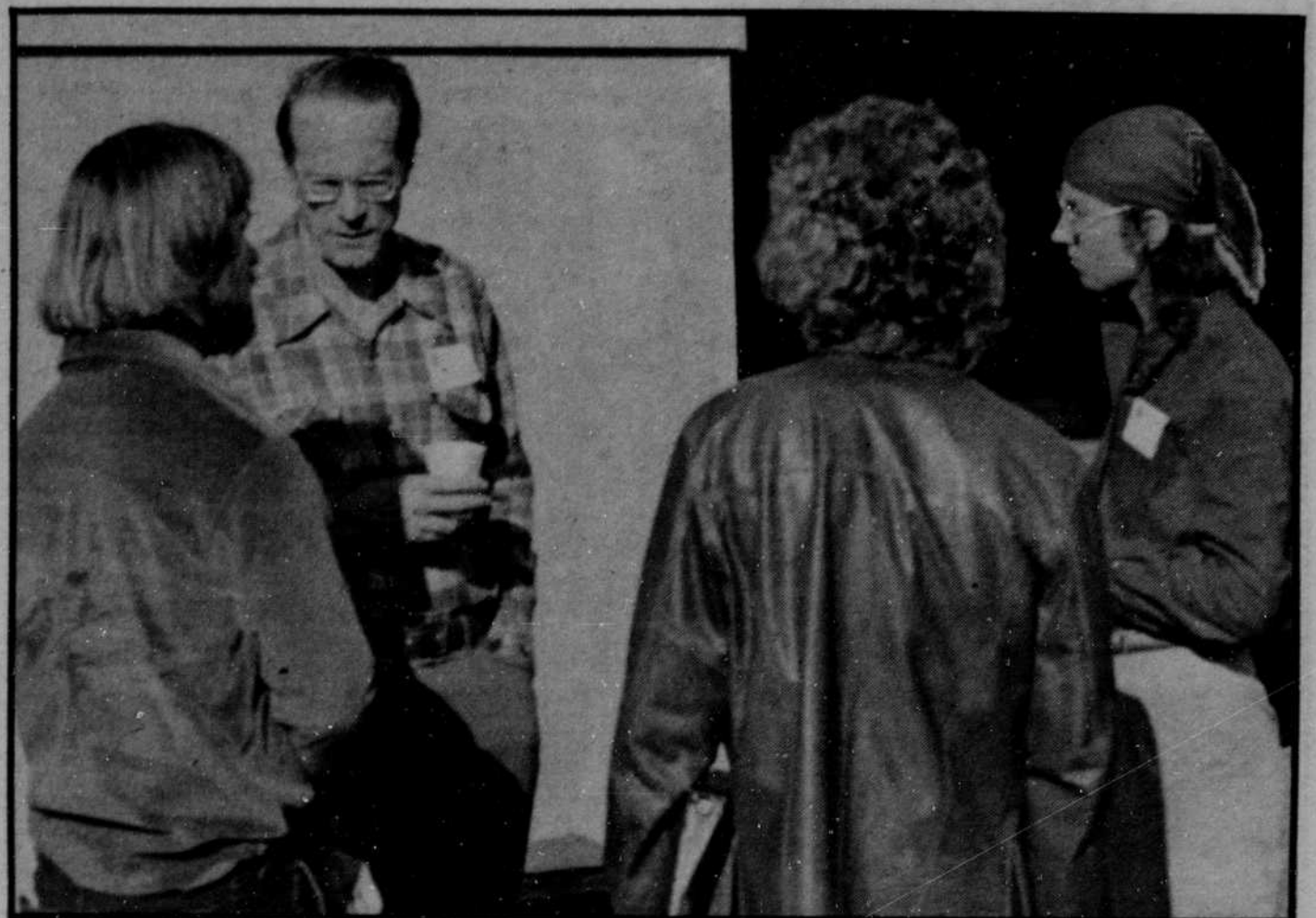


Photo by Brian Livingston

Speakers from RUNT, a Portland based project, offered suggestions on how to cut down on energy costs around the home at an appropriate technologies conference in Eugene Saturday.

Among the suggestions were installing a wall of bottles along one side of the home, which would absorb sunlight during the day and radiate heat at night.

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- Weatherization to retain heat in a house during the winter and to keep it out during the summer.

- A composting toilet to avoid massive water consumption that totals nearly 10,000 gallons of water a year per home.

RUNT uses the house to demonstrate and instruct peo-

ple about the variety of energy and resource-conserving techniques available to the average person.

Following the workshop presentations, Andy Konigsberg of Oregon Self Reliance gave a dinner talk entitled "Energy Transitions."

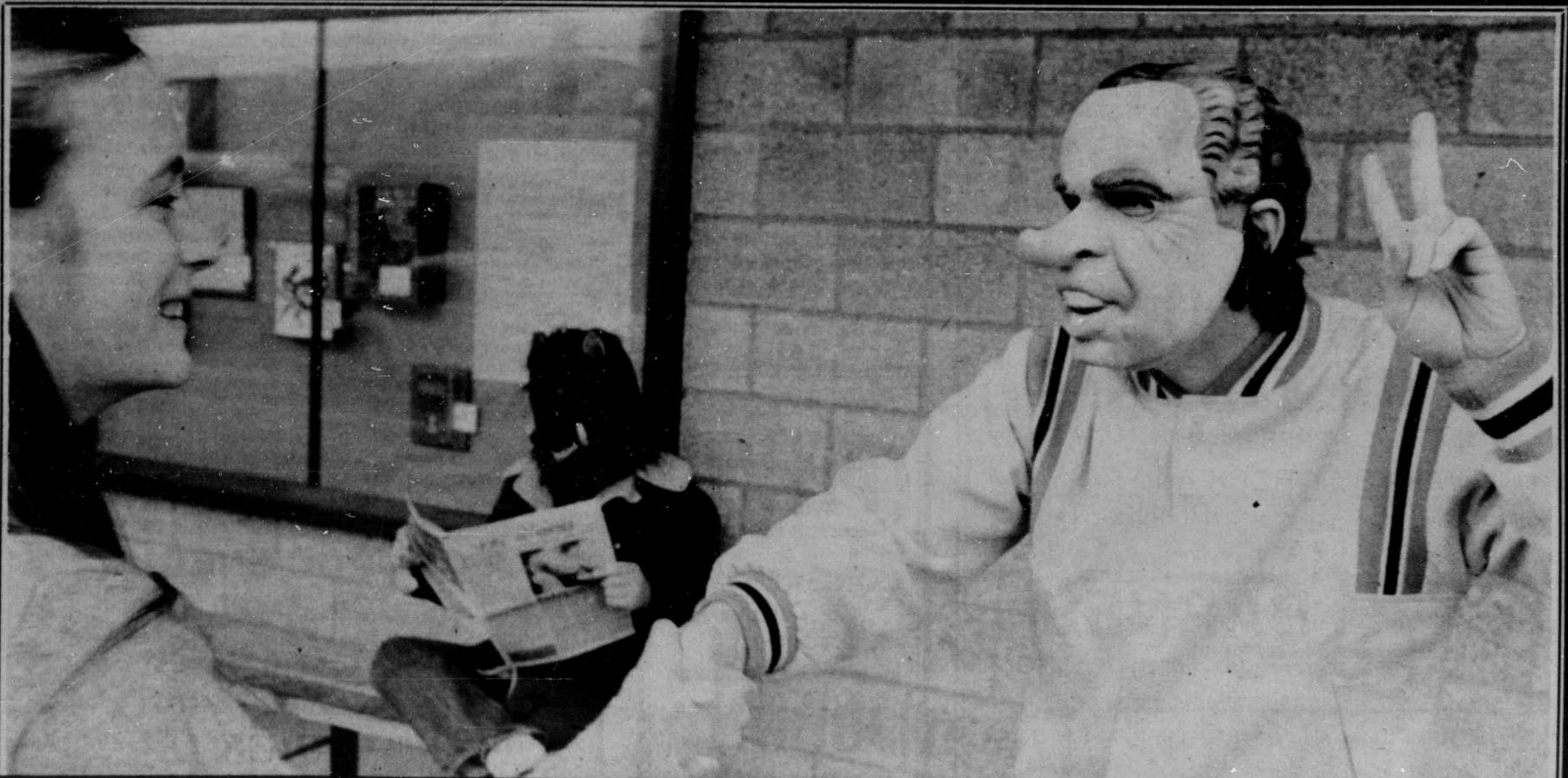
"We have heart. We have something to say," he said.

Stepping out of the home and

into the community is the essence of making appropriate technology work, Konigsberg said.

It is a "public responsibility," he said.

The conference concluded with an open forum that focused on the accomplishments made by appropriate technology in the past year.



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