

# Drug Information Center cut back

By DANE CLAUSSEN  
Of the Emerald

Despite funding cuts, the University's Drug Information Center, at 1763 Moss St., set a record for the number of client contacts and services provided in a year, Director Mark Miller says.

The center's report for the 1980-81 fiscal year, says it served more than 19,000 clients and distributed more than 32,000 copies of publications in 31 counties.

Founded in 1972, the center serves agencies and individuals around the state and University students as an information, education, and referral center.

Despite the numbers served, Miller says the center is — like almost all organizations on campus — feeling the pinch.

Calling the budget cuts "gross," Miller says his staff has been slashed from 11 to 4 full-

time and one half-time staff members by two cuts the past year.

To compensate, staff members are taking work home at night. But, being overworked has increased the need for vacation time to prevent "brain drain," Miller says.

The center has had to stop research projects, limit its publishing, and stop production of its "OPEN" newsletter and educational videotapes. In addition, the center can no longer photo-copy materials, analyze drugs, nor speak to groups free of charge.

Miller says the number of drugs being analyzed is now less than 50 per year as compared to "several hundred" when the service was free.

"It used to be the way we could show students how they were being ripped off," Miller says of drug analysis.

Students, who remain anonymous, are given details over the phone by the center on how to send drugs they want analyzed to Farm Chemical Labs in

Although it began as an ASUO agency, it grew and soon was offered funding from several counties and the state. Current sources of funding are the

Miller criticizes the state for being "willing to spend millions on treatment but not on education and prevention." He says Oregon is better than most states with respect to its equitable drug laws, but adds that the state is less liberal than many citizens think.

He says that a recent poll of Oregonians concluded that following tax relief, dealing with drug abuse is their next priority.

The future looks brighter for funding though, Miller says. He explains that legislators have realized they made a mistake by cutting funds for drug education and abuse prevention programs and that "the center will begin to recoup some of its losses."

When it can afford to, the center will probably resume production of information sheets and pamphlets although block grant proposals will be written to most closely match guidelines, Miller says.

"No one knows where the next cuts are coming from," Miller says of Reagan's plans to lessen the federal budget further, explaining that today's prospects for the future may not come true.

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California. The drugs are never on the DIC's premises, Miller says.

The center does not counsel and does not encourage drug use, Miller adds. He explains workers are prevented by the center's charter from doing either and provide only well-documented facts.

ASUO, Lane County, the state mental health division, and the University.

Miller stresses that the staff does not have time to actively solicit funds from institutions such as Oregon State University that utilize the center's services.

Despite responsibility to all of its funding sources, the graduate school's Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, and the University's Grants and Research Office, Miller says the center has more autonomy than most ASUO programs. He explains this is because its work is with "information, not advocacy."

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## College alters curriculums

By DEBBIE HOWLETT  
Of the Emerald

Robert Berdahl, dean of the arts and sciences college, told faculty members that he feels "a bit like Rich Brooks during halftime" because of recent budget cuts and requests for even further reductions.

Addressing 75 faculty members at a "state of the college" address Tuesday, Berdahl said "the college is bleeding, but alive and well."

Among the meeting's activities, the faculty passed a motion favoring changes in the Economics and Humanities Departments subtracting nine credit hours in economics and adding nine credit hours in humanities. The changes add more open-ended courses to the curriculums while diminishing some more specific courses.

The re-arrangement of classes prompted a lot of discussion from the audience concerning the "viability" of some humanities offerings.

Jim Boren, an associate professor of English, said the validity of a proposed class, an offering entitled Medieval History as Drama, had been questioned.

Department head, Steve Lowenstam, said similar courses had been offered and he saw no problems with the current proposal.

Boren said the class, which deals with varied topics, should be offered at the 200 level rather than the 300 level. Boren says students in such an open-ended class don't have sufficient knowledge of the medieval period to warrant credit at that level.

Robert Grudin, an associate professor of English, said the verbal volley was an inter-departmental squabble that should be resolved within the department.

The meeting also brought suggestions from Dick Hearsh, associate dean of the college of education, to raise money from the private sector for graduate and undergraduate grants.

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