

Cyclists spin dreams for future during local 'Pro-Bike' meeting

By John Furgurson
Of the Emerald

Visions of bicycle education programs in every school and automated bike racks on every street corner dominate the dreams of many bike enthusiasts.

And bicycle activists from around the country share these dreams and attempt to turn them into reality each year at regional and national Pro Bike conferences.

Pro Bike is an "umbrella organization" formed to bring bike activists together, says Irvin Housinger, Eugene bike educator.

Since 1980, Pro Bike conferences have added credibility to bicycle groups and have helped popularize the need for good bike facilities.

"Many bicyclists are against bike facilities because they haven't ever seen good ones," says Ruth Bascom, whose efforts to promote advanced bike facilities have earned her the nickname "mother of Eugene bicycling."

Pro Bike conferences like the one held at the University Oct. 7-10 bring in people to see outstanding bike facilities through guided tours.

"The conference helped win many supporters for bike

facilities," Bascom says.

The conferences bring groups like the League of Wheelmen and Bike Centennial together to find out what each group is doing and to pool ideas for future projects.

Seminars focus on mass event planning, legislative issues and future bike dreams to make the conferences fun as well as useful, says Dianne Bishop, Eugene bike coordinator.

At the recent Eugene conference, about 30 bicyclists from around the Northwest shared their dreams about the future of bicycling.

One dream, which has become reality for some cities, is the replacement of stop signs with "bikes yield" signs.

The concept of complete rider education is a dream for Housinger, who uses cable television to inform local bicyclists.

An ideal education program would start in the fifth grade, repeat in junior high school and then be combined with drivers' education programs in high school.

"In order for motorists and bicyclists to have peaceful coexistence, everyone must be equally educated in both disciplines," Housinger says.

"I would like to see the bicycle

integrated into society just as the car has been," Housinger says.

A first step toward total integration might be accommodation for bicyclists using buses and trains to commute.

At the conference, bicyclists said Amtrak makes bringing bikes on board difficult and added it is nearly impossible to bring a bike on a bus.

But the Lane Transit District has replaced the front seats of one bus with a bike rack. The bus route runs about 50 miles up the McKenzie River Valley and holds four bikes. It currently serves commuters and touring bicyclists.

Josh Lehman, bicycle coordinator for Seattle, had a dream that was voted unanimously into reality by the group at the Eugene conference.

The group voted in favor of organizing a bid to hold the 1986 national Pro Bike conference in Seattle. The conference will take place in conjunction with "Expo '86" in Vancouver, British Columbia, and would utilize field trips to model towns such as Eugene.

Eugene, with nationally renowned bike facilities, made a bid to hold the 1984 national conference here, but was turned down for lack of funds.

Peace speech features Oregon senator

"Waging peace" will be the topic of a talk by Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., when the Willamette World Affairs Council presents "An International Affair" this Saturday night at the Eugene Convention Center.

Hatfield will be introduced by Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Ore., and Ji Chaozhu, the Minister-Counselor of the Embassy of the People's

Republic of China. Chaozhu will discuss the prospects for cooperation between the United States and China.

The affair will begin at 7 p.m. with a dinner banquet. International entertainment also will be included.

"An International Affair" marks the formal beginning of activities

for the council, an educational, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting international understanding.

Tickets must be purchased prior to the event and cost \$20 for council members, \$25 for non-members. Contact Katherine Anthony at 484-0709 for ticket information.

Correction

Due to a copy editing error, an article in Tuesday's Emerald incorrectly stated that the University GTF contract offers higher salaries. According to Brenda Cochran, Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation president, salaries and workload will remain basically unchanged from the previous contract.

Forum looks at Senate size

Today's topic at the Brown Bag Forum is a faculty governance task force report that recommends reducing the size of the University Senate from 54 to 40 and student representation from 18 to eight.

Journalism professor James Lemert from the faculty task force and Mike Prothe, chair of the Student University Affairs Board, will discuss their respective views of the proposed change at the Forum beginning 12:30 in the EMU

Forum Room.

SUAB, with the ASUO executive, has been lobbying faculty members to support the present plan, which gives students a one-third share in the senate. The task force recommendation would reduce student representation to 25 percent.

The Brown Bag Forum is a weekly discussion series sponsored by the ASUO and Campus Interfaith Ministry.

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