

says. In addition, the director's contract is signed by the University provost, and the director is considered University faculty, all which are criteria for not funding the DIC, she says.

Honest attempts were made to include student representation on the board of advisers in its monthly meetings, yet it never occurred because of miscommunication, Schlaadt says.

"I felt like the University was coming up short of their obligation because they had held me to very high standards of behavior because I was representing the University," Miller says. But when the student government began to investigate the DIC's affiliation with the University, it was left to fend for itself, he adds.

"We are not saying we disagree with what they are doing; we are not saying that they should not exist... The bottom line is it evolved into something that was no longer fundable," Cameron says.

"We've made exceptions where we felt a need of the students are being served. I strongly feel the needs of the student are not being served by not funding this organization," says 1986-87 IFC member Ron Munion.

Many IFC and student government members oppose funding the DIC on the basis that it does not contribute to the physical and cultural well being of the student-body population.

"The interpretation of physical and cultural has been used in the broadest terms, and I have yet to see a time where the State Board of Education has not gone along with the student definition of that statute," Munion says.

"I don't necessarily think students should be required to fund us exclusively, especially since so many of our services became community and literally statewide," Worthen-Hunt says. "I think it was appropriate that (the IFC) helped fund us, and I still think we were providing enough ser-

'A bunch of individual students came in and said, "Look into this. We really think this is inappropriate. We are spending all this money on this thing that is clearly an inappropriate use of incidental fees. Investigate this."'

— Caitlin Cameron

vices to students we should have been considered fundable."

But without IFC funding, the amount of service the DIC is able to provide has decreased. The center provided 1,985 Lane County residents information through telephone, walk-in and mail access between 1984-85 while operating with a \$50,159 budget. The following year the center served 2,021 Lane County residents with a \$46,228 budget.

The DIC, which projected to serve 2,300 residents during the current year, issued 902 units of service as of Dec. 31, 11 percent less service than what the DIC projected. "As a result of the drastic staff and funding reductions, the number of clients served is down significantly," the DIC winter quarter report states.

"There has been a noticeable decrease in the amount of service (the DIC) can provide, but you can't only look at numbers. You have to look at the quality of service. Sometimes numbers don't tell the story," Manela says.

Worthen-Hunt estimates that between one-quarter and one-third of the students at the University use the center during the course of the year.

If the center could be restructured as a student organization, it could receive funding for specific services, Cameron says.

An alternative, student-based program is currently being developed for the University, says Shirley Wilson, University dean of students.

The program, called "OUR CHOICE" — Oregon University Residents Courage Helps Our Individuals Change Environments — focuses on pro-living rather than anti-drugs and centers on campus activities for student use only, says Greg Hicks, OUR CHOICE treasurer.

"Our focus is not just on drugs and alcohol; it is on general wellness among University students," says Carine Green, OUR CHOICE chairwoman.

Governed by a nine-member board of University students, OUR CHOICE is pursuing a student-helping-student program to create alternatives to substance abuse. The group likewise will provide a referral source for members of the campus community who wish to change their lifestyle or gain more information about substance abuse.

It also will provide a meeting place for students who need peer support and promote activities to increase awareness of alternative lifestyle choices, says John Geibar, an Office of Student Development graduate student who teaches on alternatives to chemical abuse. Geibar also helps with OUR CHOICE on a consultant basis.

"We don't want to be put in the same hat with the Drug Information Center," he says, referring to the DIC's politically volatile perception. The two organizations have two entirely different focuses, with OUR CHOICE providing alternatives to substance abuse and the DIC providing information about substance abuse, he says.

If the DIC closes in June, Geibar says the community will lose a valuable resource center.

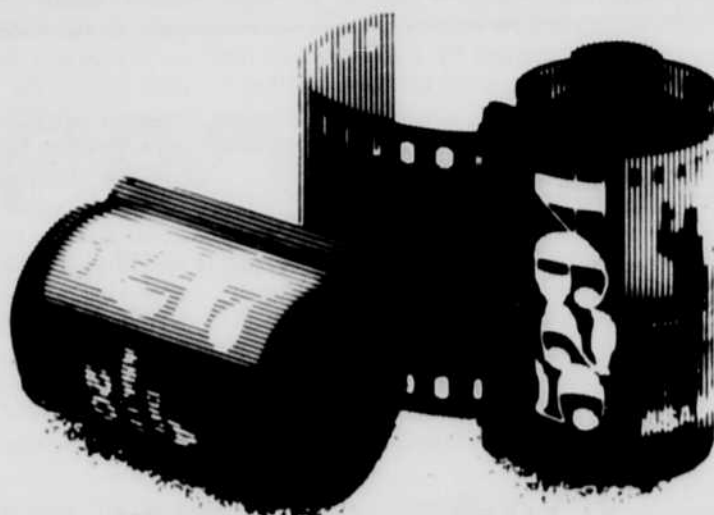
"I don't know who will do it (and continue the DIC's services). When Mark Miller left, a lot of what the DIC was also left," he says.

All the DIC personnel can do is wait and watch. An attitude change and a good knowledge base is necessary before America will once again be receptive to a center such as the DIC, which is not likely, Miller says. "We are so busy responding morally instead of realistically and factually that I do not have much hope."

The DIC is needed more now than ever before because of the growing drug technology and the increased use of drugs in society, Miller adds.

Schlaadt estimates it will take \$50,000 to keep the center open, and unless the unexpected funding materializes, it will bring an end to the era of the DIC. □

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