

Organization promotes bike ridership

Jamie Pope

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The workshop was filled with bicycles of different shapes and sizes. Some of them were big. Others were small. Many had handlebars under the seats. Some of them looked like dragsters with pedals. A few of the bikes were made for people with disabilities.

The people working in the shop were filled with enthusiasm and a sense of purpose. Collectively they are known as the Center for Appropriate Transport, or CAT.

CAT is a nonprofit organization whose aim is to promote and provide safe and effective modes of transportation. One form of transportation CAT focuses on is the bicycle. Employees and volunteers at CAT build, repair, and sell bicycles. They also do much more.

Many of the people who work at CAT's facility are teen-agers. According to founder Jan VanderTuin, CAT offers more than just work experience.

"We teach the kids here how to repair and build bikes," VanderTuin said. "CAT offers hands-on training, which is something that is missing from our educational system. We as Americans are not going to have much of a culture left if we don't know how to build things."

"We teach the kids that come here how to work, how to relate to customers, and we give them an opportunity to learn and develop entrepreneurial skills," he said.

One of the ways that CAT has been able to teach young people the skills needed for running a business is through a program called Eugene Rack Works. Eugene Rack Works builds sturdy bicycle racks that have two contact points, enabling riders to lock

the front and rear tires of their bikes. Purchasers of Eugene Rack Works' products include the Steelhead Brewery and *The Eugene Weekly*.

For the youths at CAT, the experience has been positive. Dakotah Kanavle, 15, said he has learned a lot from VanderTuin.

"I've been here since June," he said. "Jan has taught me how to work on bike parts, about welding and about running a business. I would like to make my living building bikes for people."

Kanavle's brother, Rio, 13, said he has learned about welding and lathe work. Like his brother, Rio would like to run his own bicycle-making business.

Another program CAT uses to educate teen-agers is the Hands on Program. This program teaches teens to build bicycles from scrap metal.

CAT also is active in the promotion of alternative transportation. It publishes a monthly newspaper, *Oregon Cycling*, which reports on cycling news and trends. In addition, CAT has a cycling advocacy group called Auto Relief whose members believe that cycling is the way to end auto pollution and traffic problems in the Eugene-Springfield area.

"Of all the cities in the United States," VanderTuin said, "Eugene is the most adapted for cycling. Yet there is a 3 to 4 percent bike ridership here. We are advocating that people use different forms of transportation other than the family car," he said. VanderTuin stressed that CAT does not encourage fanaticism against the use of automobiles.

"I am going to hold a press conference about the Ferry Street Bridge in a couple of days," he said. "I am going to challenge the people of Eugene-Springfield to develop a 20

percent bike ridership. In Europe, it is not uncommon to have a 50 percent bike ridership."

"I am also going to challenge them to use an alternative form of transportation such as walking, cycling or riding the bus at least once a week," he said.

VanderTuin also said that CAT has a program called Human Powered Machines, which is designed to offer area residents an alternative to driving.

"We build utility bikes that are made to carry heavy loads," he said. "These bikes allow people to transport up to 200 pounds safely through traffic without having to depend on the family car for transportation."

Those who work at CAT are enthusiastic about the organization.

"When I first came here, I was totally ignorant about fixing bicycles," said Joe Garrison, an assistant shop manager who has worked at CAT since June. "I learned everything I know about bikes from the kids. They've been great."

"I am very excited about what's happening here," he said. "I really enjoy the educational aspect that's happening here."

VanderTuin stressed that many of the people who work at CAT, such as Garrison, are strictly volunteers.

"There are a lot of people who work here because they want to realize the goal of alternative transportation in the Eugene-Springfield area," he said. "They also realize that in order to reach that goal they won't be able to get paid for a while."

VanderTuin said that CAT offers the use of its facility to the public for bike repair. Tools and instruction are provided for an hourly charge. For more information about CAT and its programs, call 343-5568.

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■ POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene Police Department Oct. 24-31.

- A 21-year-old male student was cited for discharging a firearm within city limits and criminal mischief in the third degree on the 1400 block of Mill Street Oct. 24. According to police reports, the suspect was sitting on the front porch of his apartment shooting stop signs with a pellet gun.

- A male subject attempted to send a package containing marijuana through the Federal Express service at the Bookstore on Oct. 26. According to police reports, the clerk handling the package smelled marijuana and alerted police while trying to stall the subject. When the subject saw police, he ran into Condon Hall and disappeared. The case remains under investigation.

- Ten road signs were seized from Sigma Nu fraternity on Oct. 26. No citations were issued.

- Police recovered four bicycles stolen from the University area on Oct. 27. According to police reports, the bikes had been sold to second-hand stores and pawn shops in the area.

- A University student reported theft from his vehicle on the 1500 block of Mill Street on Oct. 28. A stereo valued at \$300 was stolen.

- A 42-year-old male was cited for drinking in public on the 1300 block of Alder Street on Oct. 28.

- Two male students and one female student were cited for minor in possession of alcohol on the 1400 block of Hilyard Street Oct. 28.

- An 18-year-old Lane Community College student was cited for drinking in public on the 1300 block of Alder Street Oct. 28.

- A student reported criminal mischief on the 1000 block of Patterson Street Oct. 28. According to police reports, an unknown

person spray-painted "God" on the side of his vehicle.

- A 22-year-old male was arrested for drunk driving on the 1200 block of Kincaid Street Oct. 29.

- A 28-year-old male student was arrested at Autzen Stadium Oct. 29 for disorderly conduct. According to police reports, the suspect ran onto the playing field wearing a plastic "Nixon" mask and struck a security guard, causing him to fall to the ground.

- A keg of beer was confiscated from a vehicle at Autzen Stadium Oct. 29. No citations were issued.

- A 22-year-old male student was cited for noise disturbance on the 300 block of East 16th Avenue on Oct. 29.

- An 18-year-old female and a juvenile were cited for minor in possession of alcohol and littering on the 1500 block of Hilyard Street Oct. 29.

—Compiled by Joe Harwood

■ CORRECTION

University graduate student Tom Muller was incorrectly identified as Tom Mullen in an article that appeared in Monday's paper. The *Emerald* regrets the error.

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