

Citizens provide potential plans

■ **CROSS:** Public suggests a church, college or a cemetery for relocated war memorial

By Eric Collins
Community Reporter

The Skinner Butte Cross should be relocated to a local bible college, a church, a cemetery or not at all citizens told members of the Skinner Butte Cross Relocation Committee in a public forum at City Council Chambers Tuesday night.

Among citizen suggestions were to leave the cross undisturbed or alter its form in its present position. Four citizens also stepped forward with new sites in mind.

Coming out as one of the more viable locations was a proposal by the Eugene Bible College, located in West Eugene on Bailey Hill Road. College President Robert A. Whitlow said he has proposed three sites on the 40-acre campus that are elevated, look out onto the valley and have accessible parking. However, he noted that the site would not be available for public access at all times because of student dormitory concerns.

Although Whitlow said he would have to look toward other community organizations for funding the transportation and preparation of the new site, he said the college would provide the land and maintenance.

"We are not prepared to foot the bill for this," Whitlow said.

Marc Knutson of the Calvary Chapel of Eugene also plans to propose his church as a relocation site, claiming that although the site would not be as highly visible, the parking access would be available at any time.

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— Marc Knutson
Calvary Chapel of Eugene

site," Knutson said. "We're here to say, if you need a place, we have a site."

One concerned citizen, Charles Biggs, was supported by committee member Leithra Hillsbery, a representative of veteran's issues, in his suggestion of moving the cross to a cemetery in either north or south Eugene, maintaining that crosses are already prominent cemetery symbols. Biggs, although not affiliated with a cemetery, planned to submit his proposal Wednesday.

The cut-off date for site proposals is today at 12 noon. Gretchen Miller, chair of the relocation committee, said after the committee collects the site plans, they will invite proposers from several of the most plausible options to a discussion March 11.

The cross committee was brought into action after U.S. Magistrate Thomas Coffin told city officials to construct a plan to remove the cross in a Feb. 20 hearing.

The committee, composed of religious affiliates, veteran representatives and independent factions, will have until March 19 to review site applications and recommend a prominent site for the City Council to consider. In a March 31 hearing, the Council will submit their approved recommendation to the U.S. District Court.

Of interest to future city plans,



The Skinner Butte Cross might be moved to Eugene Bible College or Calvary Chapel of Eugene.

but not directly related to the committee's present function was the suggestion by muralist and magazine writer, P. Yuri Samer, to alter the cross' form to reflect the war memorial as opposed to the Latin cross.

Although Samer was given time to discuss his proposal, Miller made it clear that the committee's function was to recommend an alternative site, not change the structure.

However, committee members agreed that the city could use Samer's plan if a future war memorial were to be built on the site of the present-day cross.

Agency gives groups access to technology

■ **COMPUTERS:** Student co-founders want to help non-profit groups survive in a competitive setting

By C. Kenning
Freelance Reporter

University students and faculty gathered Saturday night to celebrate the grand opening of the Community Networking Technologies office in downtown Eugene. The event brought together social activists and computer technicians in a show of support for the non-profit, student-founded organization.

"Why sit and think about social change when you can just go do it?" asked Carnet Williams, a second-year University law student and co-founder of CNT. Williams saw a need on the part of public interest groups to use computer technology to enact social change. That's when Williams and Rachel Ogdie, both second-year law students, started the non-profit organization in March of 1995.

Williams explained how electronic communication and web access are becoming increasingly important.

"We wanted to help these groups expand their power base through the availability of technology," Williams said.

Ogdie said, "We seek to bridge the gap between those groups with access to technology and those presently limited to more conventional forms of communications."

The CNT staff, comprised

mostly of students, includes computer consultants, activists, student interns, attorneys and volunteers. They seek donated hardware and software, which they update and tailor to a specific group's needs. CNT then offers on-going technical training and support.

Mitch Davis, Director of Information Technology for the School of Law, is a chairperson and technical advisor for CNT. Davis was responsible for instituting the notebook computer requirement at the School of Law.

"Even at this early stage, CNT has already effected change by helping to take the commodification out of computer information technology," Davis said.

"I think what they're doing is impressive, and it goes far beyond what most students would take on," said Brenda Teig, a third-year law student. "It is well-timed, and the University setting is the perfect place for it."

Marg Tobias, a University student who came to CNT's opening and who has worked extensively with non-profit organizations, said computer networking makes a huge impact.

"The limited budgets of non-profits puts technology at the bottom, so they lack the breadth of what corporations have access to," she said.

Interested students should call CNT at 465-1127, or check the CNT homepage at <http://www.cntech.org>.

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Copy Desk: Sarah Kickler, chief, Jennifer Kavanaugh, Holly Sanders, Mike Schmierbach, Shannon Sneed
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