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Eugene activists gather at forum

The event was held by
the new Public Interest
Network of Eugene

By Tricia Duryee
Community Reporter

More than 25 groups of activists met Wednesday night to discuss their goals, projects and issues on how they can come together to become more productive in assisting a change for the city of Eugene.

The event was sponsored by the new Public Interest Network of Eugene (PINE). "[PINE] is my design, but there has definitely other people involved," Jan Spencer, a local activist, said. Spencer also had a role in putting on "Green Eugene '97" last summer. "We have a good track record for putting on a good event."

More than 100 people turned out for the event, which was held in Harris Hall at the Lane County Courthouse.

During the night, PINE circulated a questionnaire, which Spencer said would determine what is important to the citizens of Eugene who were present. It asked a variety of questions, including what issues the respondent felt were most important to the Eugene community.

"We will respond to the input, according to what that says," Spencer said. "We are interested in democracy and the many different shapes that it takes."

Another aspect of PINE would seek to unite the city by combining the efforts of local organizations. "[Eugene] is a unique town with a contrasting world view," Spencer said. "One view is the commerce of buying and selling, which ... conflicts with the other world view of relationships with

friends and nature."

Speaker Paul Prenskey, who puts out a progressive newspaper called This Week with Teeth, said, "I don't see any black faces, no Latinos and some homeless, maybe [in this room], but we all need to be a part of that change."

Spencer agreed that there were different kinds of people and that they all needed to get along. "These are lifestyles that have conflicts— if I am riding my bike, I have to deal with the cars."

The event began with a media workshop, which hosted a panel of several people involved in different projects in Eugene. Some of the participants included representatives from the Other Paper, the editor of Healing Currents and people from the television broadcast Cascadia Alive and the radio edition Radio Free Cascadia.

In the first hour, these media representatives debated about the best methods to reach the community and the censorship they faced.

"There is a problem with censorship," said Tim Lewis from Cascadia Alive, which now broadcasts on Wednesday from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on channel 96. He said that his broadcast has been bumped from station to station and from time to time, and that channel 96 is fuzzy and is not available without a cable box. "We feel we are being censored by TCI [cable] and the city," Lewis said.

After the media workshop the night continued with a forum, in which the 25 organizations had four minutes each to state their goals, issues and current projects. Such organizations included the League of Women Voters, Citizens for Public Accountability, Food for Lane County and Peace-works.

"They are a portion of what is going on in Eugene. It's not the blue-chip [organizations] at all,

"It's not the blue-chip [organizations] at all, but it's a good assemblage. This is a good opportunity for them to network, to show their ideas and get acquainted."

Jan Spencer
local activist

but it's a good assemblage. This is a good opportunity for them to network, to show their ideas and get acquainted," Spencer said.

Another group that was represented was the Eugene Chamber of Commerce, which Spencer said is often associated with

many problems in the community.

Michael Roberts from the chamber commended Spencer's bravery for inviting him there, however. Roberts also addressed the group's vision for Eugene, saying it included both a membership of small and large businesses.

He said, "The members elect me [and the other people in the commerce], and we all live here and care about our surroundings too." He also thought that they both envisioned a future that wasn't much different.

The forum was just the beginning of PINE for Spencer. "There will be definitely be results from this [night]," he said.

Housing: Violators would be fined \$10

Continued from Page 1

said the average time it takes for a resident to go through the conduct system is 3 1/2 weeks. He sees between 10 and 30 cases each week and that takes a lot of his time.

"It postpones some other things that aren't at the emergency level that some of the conduct is," Bayless said. "During that time, I can't give one-on-one interaction to my staff."

Eyster also said he wants the process to be faster.

"There's too many opportunities for inappropriate behavior in the interim," he said.

Bayless, who also spent two years as the Bean Complex resident director and one year as the Riley Complex resident director, called the possible addition of a conduct coordinator "bittersweet." He said he would prefer to see all of his complex conduct cases.

"The most important part for me is that one-on-one contact," Bayless said. By seeing all of the Hamilton Complex cases, he can gauge different hall environments. The coordinator would have a harder time learning the environments of all of the different halls in the housing system, he said.

It's hard for resident directors

to see all of the cases, Eyster said, because the ratio in most complexes is one resident director to 500 or 600 residents.

"It's important that the resident directors also do other parts of their job like interact with their staff," Eyster said.

He wants to stress housing expectations and consequences with his proposed changes. A conduct coordinator would relieve some of the stress for resident directors, giving them more time and energy to focus on individual people and programs.

"The people who are not violating the rules are the silent majority," Bayless said. With a conduct coordinator taking some of the cases, Bayless said he will be able to bond with that majority.

Bayless said he knows the names of more of the "loud minority" than the majority. However, this isn't all bad. Some of his conduct meetings are beneficial, resulting in lengthy, productive conversations.

"It really keeps me involved with the things going on in the building," he said.

And Eyster has proposed even more.

He wants to replace the Riley resident director with a graduate teaching fellow. He also wants to charge residents a \$10 adminis-

trative fee when they are found in violation with housing policy.

Part of the resident director job description is to deal with conduct, he said, but not as much as they currently are. Each conduct case costs housing more than \$35 to process.

"It's not a fine," he said. "It's simply a reflection that this is partially what it costs to administer this."

This is still a proposal, Eyster said, and he doesn't know what the mechanics of it may be.

Greenough, who is a first-year housing resident, said he is not opposed to the fee, comparing it to a DMV processing fee.

"I think it's fine to help defer the costs," he said. "I think most students will be annoyed, but mostly concerned with how it will look on their record."

Although Eyster cannot put these changes into words, he is molding housing into what he wants it to be. These are all ideas for next school year, and Eyster said he hopes to make final decisions in early April.

These changes will make a difference for residents, according to Bayless.

"At least in Hamilton, they will see the resident director in a non-conduct setting," he said.

Right now, that is rare.

Oregon Daily Emerald

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