

YMCA starts rehabilitation service project

The campus YMCA has started a new service project on campus called RAP. RAP stands for Rehabilitation Assistance Program and will deal with helping mentally retarded high

school students in the Eugene area.

According to Jan Morss, director of RAP, the program is aimed not only at helping the mentally retarded students, but also at helping University students majoring in special education. "So far these students don't have that many places to come in contact with mentally retarded students," said Morss. "This will give them the opportunity."

Project RAP will be helping the mentally retarded in areas such as grooming, how to ride the bus, and how to function in dealing with the public, buying food, and regular activities we take for granted. Morss said the University students will act as friends and guides for retarded students who are capable of taking care of themselves and have jobs in the community.

"For some reason or another, these students are incapable or

have never experienced many of the daily aspects one meets in relating to the community," Morss said.

RAP was just formed and needs many volunteers. According to Morss, many of the retarded or disabled students involved in this project are high school students who will be graduating soon and who presently hold jobs. The purpose of the program will be to alleviate the pressure on the counselors

and socialworkers. Presently, Morss said "The social workers and counselors are having to show the retarded students these activities and it's preoccupying much of their time."

Volunteers may contact Jan Morss at the YMCA, located in the basement of the EMU or by phoning 343-5189.

Sacred Heart threatened by proposed bill

A proposal to prohibit hospitals which receive federal money from refusing to perform abortions and sterilizations will soon be introduced to the Oregon legislature. The bill is being supported by the Women's Political Caucus (WPC) and Feminists United over Rights of Reproduction (FUROR).

The caucus met with Congressman John Dellenback two weeks ago to ask him to support the bill and investigate the problem of abortion refusals in connection with Sacred Heart Hospital in Eugene.

Sacred Heart receives \$2.5 million from the federal Hill-Burton act and state and local money from the tax payers under the assumption that it is a non-sectarian institution. "It receives no money from the Archdiocese," stated Margie Cundy of the WPC.

"We look at the hospital as a public utility. It has been insensitive and irresponsible," she continued. Sacred Heart refuses to perform abortions and sterilizations although it receives federal money on the grounds that, being Catholic, it does not have to perform those things which are against Catholic beliefs, she said.

The bill being proposed to the Oregon legislature will state, that a "woman may have an abortion upon her request and upon the approval of a physician," said Chris Attnievie, a lobbyist working with the Caucus. If this bill is passed it would remove the need for the husband's and a second physician's approval.

The caucus also wants Dellenback to support the national abortion repeal. This would mean Congress would take over control of abortion laws and overrule state laws. This is because, "the states are irresponsible in their laws," says Cundy. Many of the laws are written to prevent all abortions except when needed to save lives, she said. "We feel abortion is fundamentally a personal right. Congress has the responsibility to uphold that right," she continued.

Dellenback has agreed to investigate Sacred Heart's policies and promised to call Ralph Cobb, chairman of administration at the hospital. The caucus hopes this will perhaps begin to get favorable reactions to their demands.

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