

Handicapped students

ALERT works to make the University more open

If students at the University were to honestly represent the different University aged people, according to Donald Johnson, a graduate student working on his doctrate here, 500 University students would be handicapped.

The reason 17 per cent of the student body isn't imbued with these special human conditions, as he calls them, is because the University isn't "as open as it could be," he said.

Johnson is part of a group working to make the University more available. The group, ALERT, has members involved in getting ramps installed around the University, having signs made for restroom doors and getting braille food service menus.

"We're also involved in recruiting students with these special human conditions from high schools around the state to come to the University," he added.

Also in the workings are plans for a resource center. Offices of ALERT are now shared with Housing in the EMU "but we have number one priority for ground floor space in the new section of the EMU," he said.

The letters in ALERT don't actually stand for anything although "lots of different interpretations have been suggested," Johnson said.

The group is composed of handicapped students and those who are interested in the problems of those with special human conditions, according to Johnson, who is blind.

While the group feels the University needs much work before it can be really open to them, Johnson says the University is one of the few campuses even working on the problem.

Johnson termed the beginnings of the group "nebulous" but said the group got official standing at the start of summer quarter.

ALERT now has "roughly 25 to 30 members" but Johnson says the membership will go up when fall quarter starts and new students arrive. "I've talked to some of them already and have some fairly firm committments" he said. He is expecting the group's membership to increase to around 40 members.

Some funding for the group was provided by the Incidental Fee Committee but, according to Johnson, the "major portion of our funding comes from private solicitations and groups like the Lions Club."

Some of the money the group received from the IFC was earmarked for salaries. In order to make that money go farther, Johnson says the group split that money up and matched it with work-study money.

The group's goal of opening up the campus would allow people to use the University who have been unable to in the past, according to Johnson. He says it really is a problem, the extensiveness of which

most people don't realize because they have never been made aware of the physical limitations to people with special human conditions.

People interested in getting involved in the group can contact Johnson at ex. 3511 or the office of Judith Bogen, assistant dean of students, ex. 3211, whom Johnson says is "very involved" in the program.

Peggy McMullen

Study Skills

Instruction in accelerated reading will start Tuesday at the Study Skills Center in 268 Condon.

The eight-week course will be on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and on Tuesday evening from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Registration will be held at the Center, September 17 through October 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily.

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Foreign students

Organizations offer next best thing to home

Are you a University student from outside the United States who finds your fellow countrymen and women fewer and farther between than you'd like?

If you are and you're looking for a place where you can meet other students from your homeland or where someone can help you through the University red tape maze, one of the foregin student organizations probably has what you're looking for.

These groups offer social events for foreign students, provide guides across the cultural boundaires and often initiate dinners or movies to provide a similar guide service for the American student to get an insight into other cultures.

Some of these groups at the University are the African Students Association, Arab Students, Armenian Youth, Asian American Student Association, Australian Students Association, the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars (a study and action group on campus), Dutch Student Association, East Asian Society, Friends of Pavia (Italian Club), Hui-o-Kamaaina (a club for social and work help for Hawaii students), Israeli Student Organization, Japanese Students Association, Latin American Students Association and Pakistan Student Association.

There are also groups not affiliated with a country or cultural area whose main purpose is to break down cultural barriers and establish "international brotherhood," for example the Mazdayasni Zarthushti Fellowship or the Cosmopolitan Club.

Students interested in these organizations can watch for announcements of their upcoming meetings in the Emerald or contact the Student Administrative Board, 312 EMU, ex. 4366. This Board approves all organizations and has on file contact people from these organizations.

Peggy McMullen



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