

Dial-A-Bus offers new lift for handicapped

Handicapped students and employees of the University are among those eligible for Eugene's new Dial-A-Bus service which began last month.

Any Eugene or Springfield handicapped person or senior citizen may take advantage of the service, which will pick up residents at their homes and deliver them to any of 27 designated locations in the Eugene-Springfield area. Among locations are five University destinations — 13th Avenue and Kincaid Street, the library, the EMU, 18th Avenue and Kincaid Street and Franklin Boulevard and Onyx Street.

In addition to providing transportation to the University, the Dial-A-Bus service will take handicapped and elderly people to medical appointments and shopping centers. The new blue and green Dial-A-Buses are equipped with a hydraulic wheelchair lift so buses can seat 10 passengers and up to three wheelchairs.

A one-way fare on Dial-A-Bus is 60 cents or two regular tokens. Transfers from a regular bus to Dial-A-Bus are 30 cents or one regular token. Transfers from Dial-A-Bus to any other vehicle are free.

Persons wishing to use the service should call 687-5566 at least 24 hours in advance. At least two days notice is strongly recommended for a trip to medical offices not listed as one of the selected destinations. The advance notice helps insure scheduling.

Relatives or friends accompanying card-carrying Dial-A-Bus patrons pay the regular Dial-A-Bus fare. Medically required attendants can ride free. There is a limit to five persons per party.

The Dial-A-Bus service is available Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

According to organizers, the Dial-A-Bus service is growing as it moves into its second month. More handicapped University students and employees are encouraged to use the bus.



Photo by Perry Gaskill

Handicapped persons now have easier access to some of Lane County's buses. New Dial-A-Bus features hydraulic lifts to aid wheelchair loading and deliver University students and employees to five locations near campus as well as to medical centers and shopping centers.

Job prospects greet graduates

Mid-year college graduates seeking employment might well keep a watchful eye on the nation's economic indicators, says a University placement official.

Signs of improvement in the economy, says Don McCarty, director of the Career Planning and Placement Service (CPPS), could signal expanded business activity which just might mean more available jobs for mid-year graduates.

"This year we really don't know how to predict the job market," McCarty says. "A great deal depends on the economy. December, March or June graduates could be in an improved position to find employment if the economy will give business the indicators it's seeking."

What's most important for all graduates, McCarty says, is to remember some basic facts

about finding employment after graduation.

One fact, he explains, is that national trends do not always represent regional or local conditions.

"Students read, everybody reads, national reports," McCarty says. "But most do not take into account the individual school or individual programs."

Individual schools and departments, he continues, may have exceptional records of success in placing their graduates despite tight market conditions. And that record of success can help students gain the confidence they need to find employment.

"No degree in a particular school or department is a ticket to a job," McCarty reminds University students. "A person must be able to sell himself and tell a potential employer what they can do

for the employer."

"The thing we think is important is that students feel confidence in going out after a job. The way they approach the whole job search business is important. New innovative methods of job search, combined with a good resume and strong communication skills are all very important. At the University all of these areas are covered in frequently scheduled workshops provided by our office."

The job market is tight, McCarty says, but overall there are some signs of encouragement for mid-year graduates.

The number of recruiters visiting the University during fall term was up slightly, he says, and among them there seems to be a greater diversity of businesses returning to on-campus interviewing.

Enrollment drop raises budget fears

By JOCK HATFIELD
Of the Emerald

Enrollment this quarter could drop by as many as 600 students, according to the department of analytic services.

Last quarter's enrollment of 17,400 will drop to 16,815 students this quarter, predicts department director Guy Lutz. "We arrived at the figure by observing the changes in enrollment from fall to winter quarter in past years," he said. "The drop in enrollment has been steadily increasing since 1972."

Any changes in the budget because of the enrollment drop are expected to be small, according to Lutz. "There is always a drop from fall to winter quarters, and an even greater drop from winter to spring." We took this into account when we made out this year's budget.

Lutz, however, expressed concern over future implications of

low enrollment. "We have measured the ability of this University to attract freshmen and keep them, and have determined that U of O will steadily decline in enrollment over the coming five years."

This long range drop, according to Lutz, forces the University to adopt a policy of "entrenchment. The money we get from the state drops with the number of students enrolled," said Lutz. "With student enrollment dropping, this is a poor time to implement program improvement."

In particular Lutz warned against adopting program changes such as the preregistration system recently discussed as a future possibility by Gerald Bogen, vice-president of student affairs. "We have to decide whether we want to add new programs such as preregistration, or to keep the services we already have, such as a full staff of professors and teaching assistants."

Les Turner, University registrar, is not yet ready to make predictions about enrollment this quarter. "I've heard rumors of a budget deficit," he said, "but it's too early yet to tell what the final enrollment will be. Students will be registering all week and from looking at the number of students in the gym, it's possible that enrollment will go up."

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