

Campus operators: More than numbers



By JULIE MORTON
Of the Emerald

Nestled in the basement of Johnson Hall are three Electric Switching Systems Centrex consoles. They are not dangerous. They are there to connect Joe College with an operator who will give him the telephone number of his Sociology professor, so Joe can call and explain why he will be sick on the day of the midterm.

The seven women who work as campus directory operators seem to be quite adept at handling the consoles and quick to organize information.

Lois McDonald, who has been with the service for five years, says she knows most of the campus extensions by heart, and she says the other operators do too.

Training a good operator takes about a year, because it requires a lot more than knowing how to operate the consoles, according to McDonald.

The four full-time and three part-time employees have large print-outs close to them that con-

tain the phone numbers of every student, professor, and administrator, in addition to other University personnel, and on and off campus student organizations, departments and offices. They can also find the number of certain pay phones on campus, if they are told where the pay phone is.

"We try to have what people will ask for," McDonald says. The numbers of other schools in Oregon and frequently-called government offices in Salem are only the beginning. The operators can tell the caller when the health center is open and can even give the swimming pool's hours.

"We keep brochures that we get in the mail about different activities," McDonald explains. "So if someone calls and says, 'When is that...?' we might be able to help them."

In fact, if a caller knows the room number in any building on campus, the directory should be able to tell the number of the nearest phone.

Of course the amount of trouble

an operator will go to in looking for the more obscure information depends on how busy she is, McDonald adds.

The service used to be available 24 hours a day. But budget cuts reduced it to a five-day week, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

When it's so busy there isn't a light to spare on any of the consoles, tension increases in the quiet office. McDonald says they could use an extra console at times like that. But Dianne Nelson, who has been an operator for over five years, says that tension is actually pretty rare.

Nelson says the public is usually polite. However, the operators occasionally encounter a few swear words. When the speakers get too obscene, Nelson says she simply refers them to the supervisor, Dorothy Grover.

The large amount of information the operators file requires constant updating. McDonald advises students who have changed numbers to call the directory and tell them, since it takes about a month to get the number changes from Oregon Hall.

Program exposes children to cultural fun

By MARY MASSIE
Of the Emerald

The Three-D multicultural program may be small but it continues to strive for recognition in the university community.

Three-D (three dimensional self-development program in education, recreation and culture) began in spring 1975 and evolved out of the Black Student Union as a pilot program for children.

"The idea behind Three-D is to get all children in the Eugene area involved with children of other cultures and to realize that there are similarities and differences," said Jetea Johnson, director of the program.

Last year Three-D started a Saturday recreation program at Eastside Elementary School. The recreation program for this year will begin on Nov. 5 and runs for five weeks. Swim and gym ac-

tivities will be offered to approximately 15 to 20 children between the ages of 3 and 14 years of age.

"Eugene is lacking in this type of program at the moment and there is a definite need for this type of social interaction," said John McArtie, director of recreation. "It's an idea based on some ideas used in other cities where recreation programs are big on Saturday."

This year Three-D is also offering an after school cultural program three days a week at Condon Elementary School.

On Mondays, a Spanish language and culture class is taught, on Wednesdays, there are dance and arts and crafts programs, and on Fridays a Hawaiian people and cultures class is offered.

On a regular basis the after school program includes 15 to 20 children between the ages of four and 14.

Currently classes are taught by eight university students and two graduate volunteers. Some students are receiving credit through the CSPA department who sponsors the program as a special projects class.

Souix Thompson, public relations coordinator for the program, is in charge of making parents and children aware of Three-D, and

organizing and researching fund raising.

"The main thing we are trying to do is bring people and activity into the program," she said. Three-D is presently funded by the IFC but sponsors its own fund raising activities. On Nov. 11 a teen dance and mini Las Vegas night will be held at the Laurelwood Community Center. The activity is designed

for participation by both children and parents.

Three-D is planning a tutorial program for next term. Students could possibly receive 1 to 3 practicum credits for tutoring basic development subjects such as math, art and science.

In the future, Three-D will direct its focus towards a more cultural influence.

Emerald Board chooses new production manager

Betsy Bodine has been chosen by the Emerald Board of Directors to replace Kate Seigal as production manager of the Oregon Daily Emerald.

Bodine will take over Nov. 14. She is presently a graphics technician for in-house printing at Lane Community College.

Originally from Springfield, Va., Bodine attended Grinnell College in Iowa and UCLA, where she studied media production and art.

The new production manager will maintain equipment, budget and select supplies, and supervise the department in the hiring, firing, training and scheduling of all production personnel.

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