



Peer counselor Barbara Tooley

Photo by Doug Williams

Peer counseling program helps over-thirty students

By SALLY HODGKINSON
For the Emerald

The fastest growing segment of the college population is students over thirty years old, according to Joanne Ferraro Lawson, coordinator for a University peer counseling program designated to help such "non-traditional" students.

Fifteen percent of University students were over 25 years of age at the end of fall term 1977, according to Lawson.

Lawson's concern for non-traditional students is not unfounded. A "lifelong learner," she graduated summer term 1978 with one of her five children.

There are more women over 30 enrolling in the University than men of that age, says Lawson.

"I think in the last few years the number of women has increased because women have been set-

'Non-traditionals' don't encounter same problems

ting their sights higher, jobs are harder to get without an education, and there are a lot of divorcees having to get educated so they can get a job," Lawson says.

Non-traditional students have problems that average students rarely have, Lawson says.

"They have to keep two or possibly three lives going at the same time — worker, parent, and student," Lawson says. "They spread themselves pretty thin."

"They don't need the same advice that you give to students just out of high school," she says. "They have different problems and different needs."

"Another problem is you feel that you do not fit," Lawson continues. "Everyone looks like your children, you may be older than your professor, and you just feel like you're in a place where you don't belong."

"They need a place to come where someone can address their problems and make them feel a part of the University," she says.

Lawson says she sees a lot of students who are considering enrollment in the University but have not yet made the transition.

"The program is new here, but we're thinking of doing some outreach at a later date after we're more comfortable with what is going on here now," she says.

Counseling for lifelong learners is available by appointment or by dropping in at the Student Services office in Oregon Hall, Room 164.

Registration drive starts on campus

The ASUO, which has worked all year to register voters for the November election, has planned a large drive this week on campus.

Jeff Warren, ASUO vice president for state and federal affairs, hopes to add significantly to the over 2,500 voters registered by the ASUO so far this year with an all out effort today and Tuesday.

"So far, our effort has consisted of tables in the dormitories and in front of the bookstore, which we've done three or four times a week," says Warren.

These tables have been staffed by paid workers, according to Warren, but this week's drive will be made up strictly of volunteers.

"Anyone interested in working on the drive should come into the ASUO office, Suite 4, and sign up," says Warren. "Right now we only have about eight people signed up, but it would be nice to have about 20."

Warren plans to concentrate his efforts in the west campus area between Mill and Kincaid Streets, with volunteers working primarily between 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. both nights.

Warren has been pleased with the response to the drive from fraternities and sororities, and plans to supply every Greek house with registration forms. An award will be given to the house with the most voters registered by Election Day.

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