

ALERT expands student aid role



Bruce McPhun, the new director of ALERT, an ASUO-funded program to aid handicapped students, seeks to extend the center's role to include non-handicapped students as well.

By SHERALYN WELLS
Of the Emerald

Each University student is affected by the handicapped person, says Bruce McPhun, the new director of ALERT, an ASUO organization dealing with the handicapped.

McPhun is making plans to improve ALERT's role as a resource and referral center for both the handicapped and non-handicapped. The ALERT director stressed that the non-handicapped student may use ALERT's help after a temporary handicap such as a broken leg, or in the case of a handicapped family member, classmate, or friend.

McPhun uses the words, accompany, encourage and assist to guide his office. He explains that if either a "normal" or handicapped person came to ALERT, McPhun "would share in his grief," and "assist him by informing him of the services, organizations and individuals from whom he may seek assistance."

Funded by the IFC with a budget of \$3,364, McPhun's ALERT program is still being staffed with paid and volunteer workers for the year. This selection is his top priority now, with planning of activities and programs to come later.

The Kamikaze Wheelchair basketball game again probably will be co-sponsored by ALERT this spring, McPhun said.

Founded in 1970 by the University Of-

fice of Student Services and several handicapped students, ALERT dealt primarily with overcoming architectural barriers to buildings and classrooms, and installing curb cuts, ramps and elevators.

As more buildings became accessible to handicapped students, more handicapped students attended the University, putting more pressure on officials to modify buildings, sometimes cutting through red-tape with court injunctions.

This first group of ALERT students went on to become active lobbyists in the Oregon Legislature, pushing the University toward compliance with their needs.

Chris Goodrich, ALERT director from 1974 to 1975, says some ALERT students even participated in a two-week sit-in to persuade the head of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Joseph Califano, to sign the Vocation Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The bill established 504 regulations concerning accessibility to programs which must be implemented by 1980. Major modifications are still needed for access to Deady and Villard halls and to the language labs.

Also to the credit of that first ALERT group is the research and publication of the first edition of the "Backdoor Plan," a book containing specialized campus maps identifying elevators, ramps and curb cuts into accessible buildings.

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IFC's final moves limit funding, approve emergency requests

By JIM ALLEN
Of the Emerald

The Incidental Fee Committee, working with a small remaining Unallocated Reserve fund, was forced to postpone action on a number of issues Monday night. The meeting, held at 4:30 p.m. in EMU's Century D Room, is the last one scheduled before the new IFC is elected next Thursday.

IFC members agreed early in the meeting that they could not count on some \$7,000 in Unallocated Reserves not yet approved by the University, and decided to limit allocations to the \$3,500 left from last year. The committee also decided to temporarily fund programs for emergency situations only.

The Sailing Club's request for \$7,700 to pay off loans for new sailboats was tabled because of lack of funds but the IFC did resolve to give the Sailing Club a high priority for funding when additional money arrives. It was determined by the committee that the request was not an emergency.

The IFC also tabled a request by the Office of Student Advocacy for \$2,550 to cover a deficit created when OSA Director Don Chalmers was accepted as a research assistant by the University. His change of status increased the IFC's share of funding required for the post, but the matter was postponed and left to the new committee.

Forensics, the University competitive speaking and debate team obtained a \$210 line item

transfer from its telephone allocation fund to help pay for Symposium, a local effort planned by Forensics to increase high school and University interest in competitive speaking. Another \$800 was taken from the Unallocated Reserve fund to help Forensics with its travel expenses.

In other action, the IFC voted unanimously to fund the EMU Board for two new committee chairmanships created last month. The positions of board vice chair and Fishbowl Renovation Users Group Chair received a total of \$268.38. This money will be taken from unused Student University Affairs Board payroll assessments.

A new program, the Willamette Literary Guild, approached the IFC during the meeting and asked for recognition as an ASUO program. The group, represented by Stephanie Martin, had not been recognized by the IFC before, but was assigned a tag person, Doug Bassett. Bassett will study the group's request for funding and report back to the committee at a later time.

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