

Fixing cars or building bars? Check out the tools from the...

By **KAREN KANGAS**
Of the Emerald

Last year one of the residents of the University's Philadelphia House could not get inside without help. He was confined to a wheelchair and the house had no wheelchair ramp.

That's no longer the case, because co-op members are building a ramp with tools from the University's Action Now Tool Library.

Bill Harris, Action Now, director says carpentry tools are the most abundant and popular tools in the library, but he points out that gardening and auto tune-up tools are also available.

The tool library is at 1557 Agate St. but that this address can be misleading. Secreted in a bungalow across from the Henderson-Bean dormitory complex, the library can be found more easily from 15th Avenue.

"The Action Now program is oriented toward helping people in the University and the community become more self-sufficient" by either lending them tools or by showing them ways to use the tools, Harris says.

In the past Action Now has sponsored classes ranging in subjects from solar energy to house building.

"Our theme is constructive education within people's environment," Harris

says. "We want to give students an opportunity to learn by doing rather than by sitting in a classroom."

The number of projects and classes sponsored by Action Now has declined since University architecture student Carlo Batista, started the program in 1972. The program originally offered classes that helped build and repair the homes for people who didn't have the knowledge or finances to do it themselves.

Currently, Action Now's only project is the maintenance of the tool library, but Harris plans to change this.

He wants to organize classes in carpentry, gardening and bicycle mechanics, but needs to locate people willing to teach the classes.

Action Now is funded by the Incidental Fee Committee and Work-study funds are available to those who teach the program's classes and work in the tool library.

This term the library hours are 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday; and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Students are welcome to check out tools but they must present identification. Non-students are required to pay a deposit fee of \$10 a year or \$2.50 a term.

Action Now library



Photo by Doug Williams

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