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Upward Bound promotes basic skills, self-reliance

By KATHY MISKILL
Of the Emerald

While more than 5,000 University students are accumulating summer-term credits for graduation requirements, 57 high-school students also are earning credits — credits that can lead them toward a college education.

Upward Bound, a federally funded nationwide program, helps students enrolled in

grades nine through 11 to develop the basic academic skills necessary for post-secondary education.

The program, established in 1966, also enables students to be aware of various career opportunities through seminars, field trips and on-the-job training.

Students who participate in the program must meet a number of requirements. A student must currently be enrolled in a "target-area" school, must come from a family whose taxable income is within the federal government's low-income level, and must have academic potential while needing help in basic skills.

A school is considered for Upward Bound assistance based on student demographics, student ethnic origins and family income levels, University Upward Bound Director Pearl Hill says.

Upward Bound consists of two programs — an academic year program and an eight-week summer residential program. The former offers tutorial assistance and out-of-class activities such as field trips, art exhibits and films. The more intensive summer program adds class instruction and student housing in University dormitories.

Even though Upward Bound

students pay no fee and receive a weekly stipend of \$7.50, the decision to enroll is not an easy one, according to Hill. Summer jobs often seem more attractive to students who easily can earn more than the weekly stipends, she says.

"Times are getting tighter and tighter. They (students) are dealing with it realistically," Hill says.

All Upward Bound students must take courses in reading, writing, math, health, science and speech three days a week.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays students engage in career counseling and out-of-class activities conducted by group counselors. They also have a choice of elective classes including journalism, art, cooking and martial arts.

Hill says all the students have academic potential, although they may not realize it.

"We don't take no for an answer. We don't take 'I can't,'" she says.

Hill says she thinks Upward Bound definitely lives up to its optimistic title. "I think Upward Bound does make a difference in people's lives," she says.

If students learn to have control of their lives and to set goals and work toward them, they'll be upward bound, Hill maintains. She says Upward Bound is "a place to grow... a place to start."

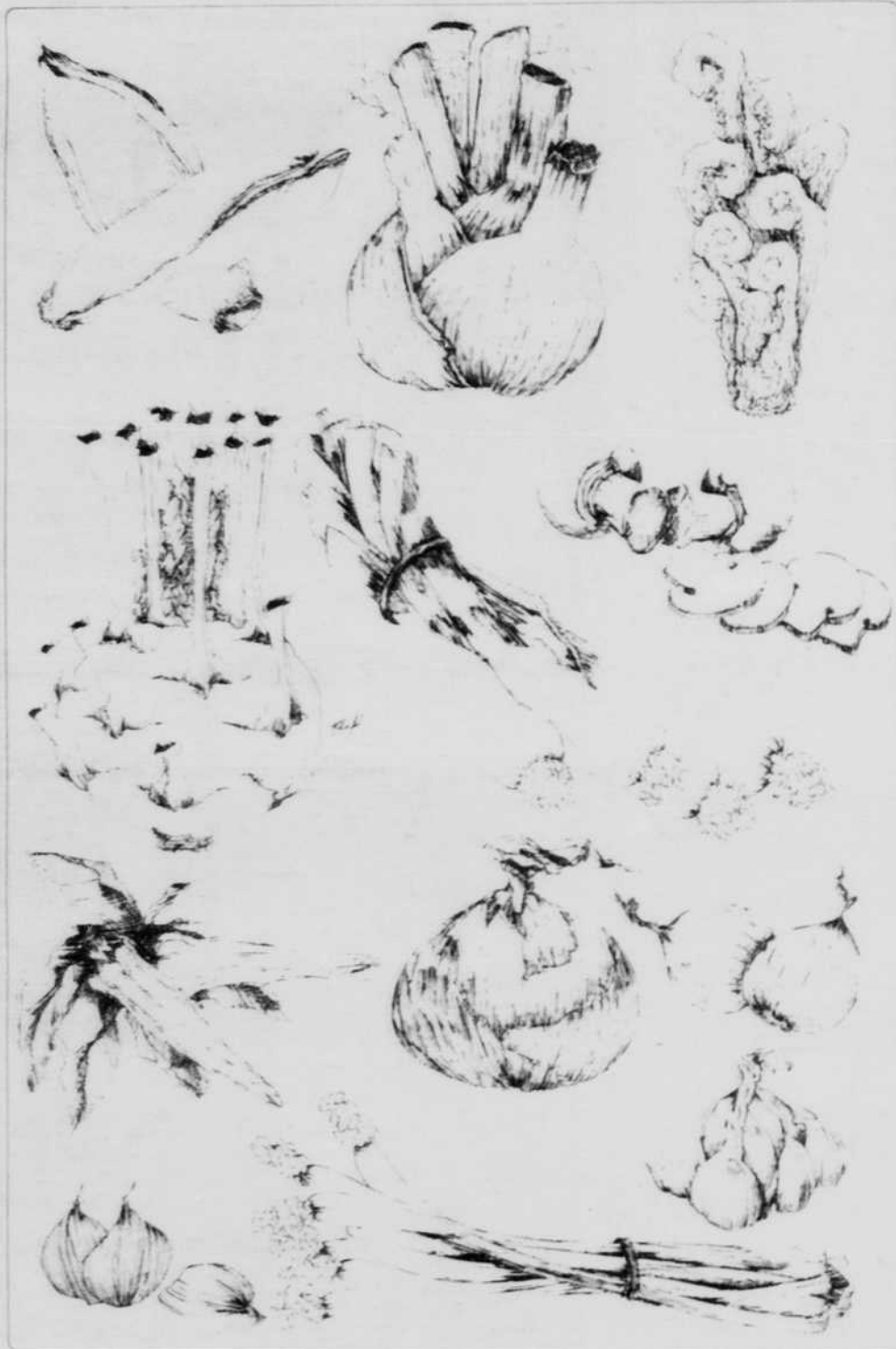


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KWAX given grant

The University radio station has received a \$2,500 grant from a private foundation for the regional broadcast of the Oregon Bach Festival.

The money, donated to KWAX by the Irene Gerlinger

Swindells Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, will enable the station to broadcast four of the festival's main concerts on a tape-delay basis to all 15 non-commercial radio stations in Oregon.

"This is the first time we've received a grant from a non-governmental foundation," says Janet Kenney, station manager.

"The Oregon Community Foundation primarily is concerned with things affecting Oregon and the quality of life in Oregon. We are happy they find disseminating the concerts throughout Oregon important."

The grant also will allow KWAX to purchase equipment for use in future Oregon Bach Festival broadcasts.

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