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# Network teaches disabled

By Mike Sims  
Of the Emerald

Disabled women and girls are learning skills that will help them make better use of educational and community resources with the help of the Educational Equity Network of Disabled Women and Girls.

According to Eugene coordinator Mary Boomer, the network works toward this end by providing disabled women and girls with positive role models and helping them achieve a good self-image.

"Our goal is for the women who participate and the community that supports them to gain respect for each other," Boomer says. "In this way, participants in the network's programs will have the experience of being positive resources within their support groups and the community."

Through the network, disabled women and girls take part in informational and support group meetings where several different topics are discussed. Boomer says that group members gain group facilitation skills and learn to assess and use community resources.

"Every group deals with individual and group needs and challenges," Boomer says. Building accessibility, legal aid, communicating with doctors and community ignorance with regard to disabilities are just a few of the challenges dealt with by network groups.

"The group is there for participants to use," Boomer says. "The group itself quickly becomes a resource for its members."

Boomer also says that all information shared in group meetings is confidential.

Beginning in October, support groups will begin meeting through Lane Community College and Sacred Heart Hospital in Eugene, Willamalane Park and Recreation District in Springfield, and the Association for Retarded Citizens in Corvallis. Groups will meet for two hours each week through December.

Boomer emphasizes that each group is open to all women and girls with all kinds of disabilities, as well as interested able-bodied women. She says, however, that the majority of women in the Sacred Heart group have become disabled within the past ten years. She adds that facilitators will be glad to help steer individuals toward a suitable group.

Women and girls interested in more information on the Willamalane group may call Dorothy Van Winkle at 746-1669. Those interested in the LCC group may contact Dolores May at 726-2204.

Boomer is available at the University YWCA, 841 E. 18th, or by calling 686-4439 for information on the remaining groups or any other aspect of the network and its programs.

"I offer a challenge to disabled or able-bodied women to risk calling," Boomer says. "I know it takes courage to pick up that phone, but our program is really exciting."

## OSPIRG student positions now open

The Oregon State Public Interest Research Group now has two positions available on its nine-member board of directors.

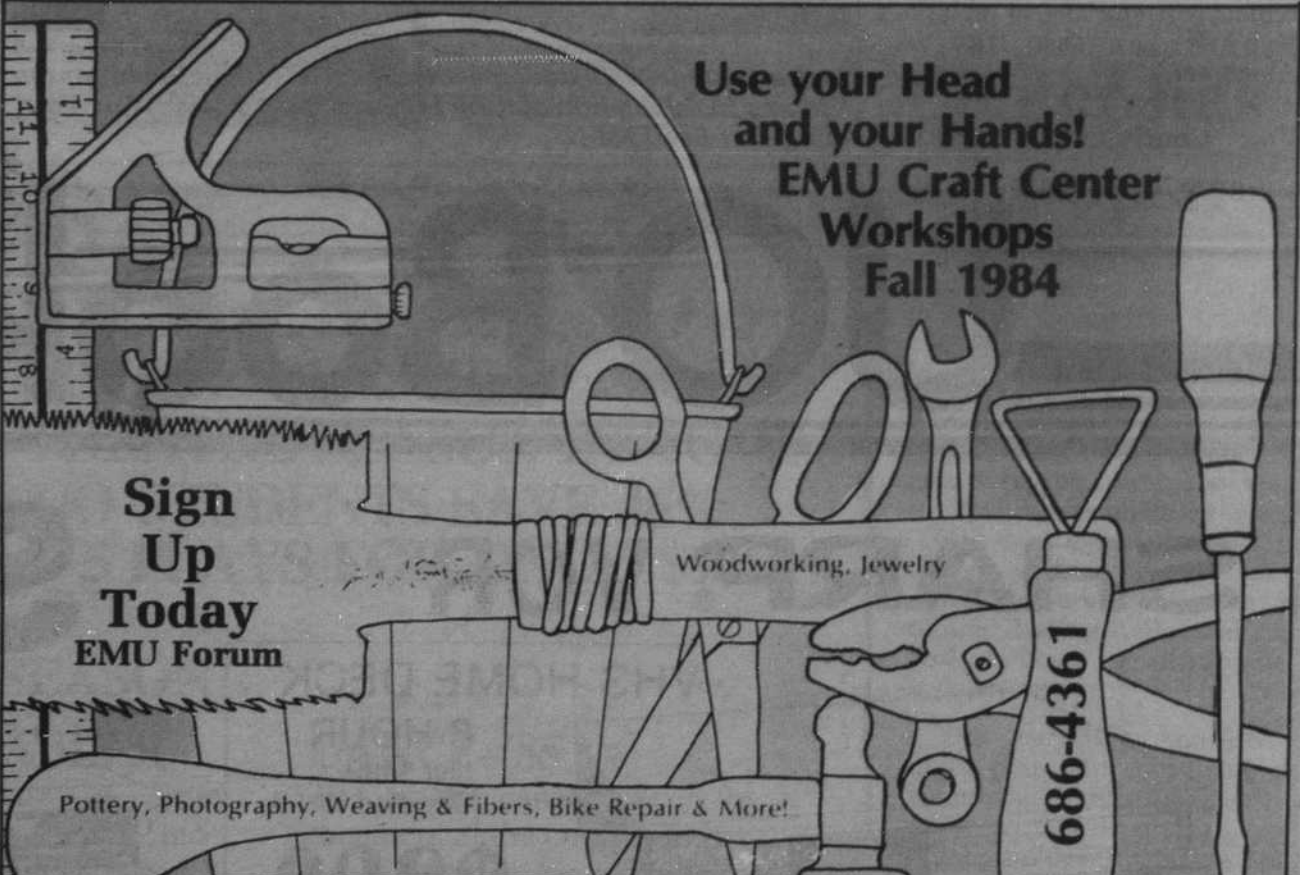
Board representatives are expected to work a minimum of six office hours per week, says OSPIRG chair, Carol Benedick.

Duties include handling hot-line calls, selling publications and some public speaking. Representatives are also asked to attend meetings held once every two weeks, she adds.

Benedick says the jobs are open to all students from all

departments.

Interested students should see Louise Tippens by Monday at the OSPIRG office in Suite 1, EMU, or call her at 686-4377. Applicants will be informally interviewed and selections will be made by Tuesday.



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