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WANTED STUDENT PARTICIPATION

During Winter and Spring terms, the University will be engaged in a self-study exercise preliminary to its reaccreditation by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges. The University Administration seeks interested students to participate on the following self-study task forces:

- Undergraduate Education (2)
- Graduate Education (2)
- University Finance (1)
- Physical Plant (1)
- University Administration (1)
- Libraries (2)
- Student Affairs (2)
- Outreach Programs and Special Collections (2)

If you are interested in helping with this effort, please submit a short letter of application to Ray Viellet, ASUO University Affairs Coordinator, ASUO, Suite 4 EMU; or Steering Committee, President's Office, 110 Johnson Hall.

Appointments shall be made during the third week of January.

Students learn job skills

Nestled among towers of books, in a back corner of the third floor of the University's Main Library, two young people wearing white protective masks huddle over their cart. A vacuum sits on the cart's bottom tier.

One worker takes a book from a library shelf and hands it to the other, who places it on the first shelf of the cart. After the entire library shelf has been transferred, the two vacuum the books and methodically return them to the shelves in the exact order in which they took them.

They look at the shelf, making sure all is in order, then look at Cheryl Gravitt, their vocational trainer. She smiles and they go on to the next shelf.

The two participate in a Eugene 4J School District program that provides work experience for 16 to 21-year-old students who have mild handicaps. David Abramowitz, The Vocational Center's career development coordinator, prefers to say his students have special needs, and that often it is the environment that is handicapped, not the student.

Work stations at the University are part of a process designed to help students make the transition from a protected work environment to one where they must interact with people. Ten to 15 students work two hours a day, four days a week and perform a variety of jobs on campus. They can be found in the library dusting books, in the admissions office filing folders, in the EMU cafeteria serving Mexican food and performing jobs for the Physical Plant.

The students perform essential services

for the University and in exchange, they receive work experience in a challenging environment. The experience improves their resumes and shows prospective employers that special-needs students can be valuable employees, Abramowitz says.

Abramowitz says the University "is a supermarket of jobs and working environments." He adds, "I really appreciate University personnel who allow this to happen."

Dusting library books will help preserve the large collection, Dennis Emerson, the library's stacks manager, says.

"If these kids weren't doing this, it wouldn't get done," he adds. "Last year, they completed half of the third floor. Now they're working on the second half. By the time they're done, it will be time to do it again," he says.

Emerson's role in the program is to give students a sense of authority.

"I make an appearance as a 'boss' and ask them how it's going," he says. "But there is very little investment on our part." He says the library administration supports the program and hopes to see it continue.

Gravitt has been working in this program since last September and says that her job is to work herself out of a job.

"I try to make them as independent as possible. Their ability to do a job without my help is the greatest thing we can teach," she says. "There is nothing greater you can give

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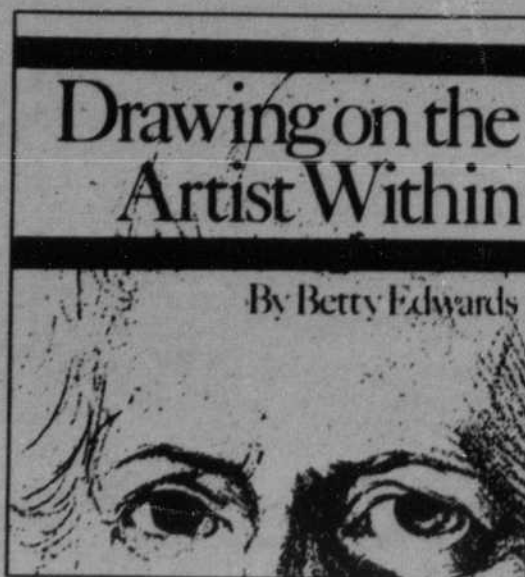
Geni Vinegard cleans an EMU cart as a participant in a program that provides students who have mild handicaps with on-the-job training.

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Monday, January 13, 1986