

Two-day event to address issues of disabled; promote awareness

By **Tonnie Dakin**
Of the Emerald

"Responding to Challenge," a two-day campus event dealing with issues of disability, is a good chance for students to become aware of the challenges facing disabled people, according to Angela Del Priore, vice president of Circle K, a campus service group that is co-sponsoring the event with the ASUO.

One goal of the event, which also was sponsored by Circle K two years ago, is to "realize the need for awareness about disabilities, for both able-bodied and disabled people," Del Priore said.

One basic thing that people

need to realize is that disabled people want independence, and the term handicapped, which is often used, is not an acceptable term to describe disabled people, she said.

"Handicapped seems to refer more to the person, where disabled refers more to the situation," Del Priore said.

The event, which takes place today and Thursday, includes a display of art work by visually impaired artist Robert Travis shown in the Lawrence Hall lobby, wheelchair races down 13th Avenue, and an information fair and video presentations in the EMU.

The wheelchair races "are an opportunity for students to

realize what it's like to be in a wheelchair," Del Priore said.

Also scheduled for today is guest speaker John Hall, who will be speaking about "Exceeding Expectations," at 8 p.m. in Room 151 Education.

There will be a forum discussion about attitudes, stereotypes and legislative issues concerning the disabled Thursday at 2:30 p.m.

Del Priore also hopes that students will realize the challenges that disabled people face at the University such as lack of wheelchair accessibility.

But Eugene, as well as Lane County, offers many opportunities for disabled people that other cities and counties do not,

Del Priore said. Lane County Transit System, for example, has 100 percent wheelchair accessibility, unlike Portland, she said.

"I think that it's a responsibility of our society to provide

people with opportunities to be independent and to contribute to society," Del Priore said.

"It's incredible the network of the disabled community in Eugene," she added.

Dix named to committees; will deal with liability rates

By **Shawn Wirtz**
Of the Emerald

State Rep. David Dix was named to the House Judiciary Committee and the State and Federal Affairs Committee Tuesday by House Speaker Vera Katz. Dix represents District 41, which includes the University community.

"During the campaign I talked about finding a way to ensure that Oregonians were offered reasonable liability insurance rates," Dix said. "Serving on the Judiciary Committee will give me the opportunity to be directly involved with shaping the solutions to high liability insurance rates."

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's \$54 million corrections proposal also will come through the Judiciary Committee. Dix is generally supportive of the governor's proposal, he said.

"We must find a way to stop the revolving door to the criminal justice system that now has rapists spending 18



David Dix

percent of their sentence behind bars and 82 percent of their sentence on the street due to the lack of prison facilities," Dix said.

Dix anticipates the State and Federal Affairs Committee may look into the prospect of regional primaries, he said.

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