

Disability group offers services

Equipment and other aids provided

By Jolie Andrade
Emerald Reporter

The Disabled Students Services Pilot Project provides various services for University students with disabilities.

Last year ASUO and the University administration gave funds to initiate DSSP, which provides services for students the University is not legally required to supply. Most of the students who receive the services have learning disabilities or visual impairments.

"All disabilities have to be legally documented before services of any kind can be offered," said Nancie Fadeley, assistant to the provost and chairwoman of the project.

The project committee consists of three students appointed by the ASUO president, two faculty members and one administration member appointed by the dean of students. The committee meets about once a month to discuss and plan the allocation of funds.

Of the \$21,000 available to the project, more than \$12,000 is used for machines and equipment. The FM loop, for example, is a new device that enables the hearing impaired to hear class lectures and discus-

sions clearly. The instructor wears a tiny transmitter and the student listens to a receiver.

Chris Grant, a hearing impaired graduate student, has recently started to use the FM loop on a trial basis this year. She had previously used an interpreter.

Grant said the FM loop is great in discussion classes.

"Interpreters are sometimes hard in that situation," she said, adding that "students have been super cooperative in passing (the device) around."

Grant added that the FM loop is enabling her to start counseling work this winter. She said she just wants to "get clients comfortable with using it."

Grant said the loop doesn't work well in all situations, such as multi-person conferences, so she uses a note taker as back up.

Suzie Canender, DSSP counselor, said that although there are several FM loops on campus there is still a need for another one.

The kurzweil is another device supplied by the project that enables the blind to read. Fadeley said the machine reads the material and administers a synthetic voice. Because of the sensitivity of the machine, only

trained users are allowed to use it, she said.

Last year the pilot project received enough money to install a Telecommunication Device for the Deaf. The University's academic advising office will also be assisting the DSPP with this instrument because of the increase in demand.

The committee also provides note takers for students. For the lower division classes that do offer footnotes, Fadeley said of the group "sometimes we pay for footnotes instead of paying for someone."

Students with mobility problems are furnished with a printed handbook map and a hand-out for learning disability. However, Fadeley said that even with this supplement, many students are unaware of the newly installed elevators around campus due to the lack of signs indicating their location.

In addition to these services, DSSP sent two students, Pat Henderson and Jim Leinen, along with Jill Barocco, DSSP coordinator, to a national conference in Seattle.

DSSP will also be attending the October State Conference and the Oregon Association of Disabled Student Service Programs in Higher Education in Ashland.

DSSP has also encouraged a students with disabilities group to form on campus. "They've already come up with a logo and name," Canender said.

Fadeley said that awareness among students with disabilities has increased.

"More are coming for assistance," Fadeley said. "(They) didn't ask because they didn't know it was available.... A lot of students don't know they have a right to these services."



Doggone

The annual Eugene Celebration ended Sunday, and with it a chance to play with these dalmatians. But the continued success of the city's three-day festival should ensure that they'll be back.

Photo by Mia Bertelsen



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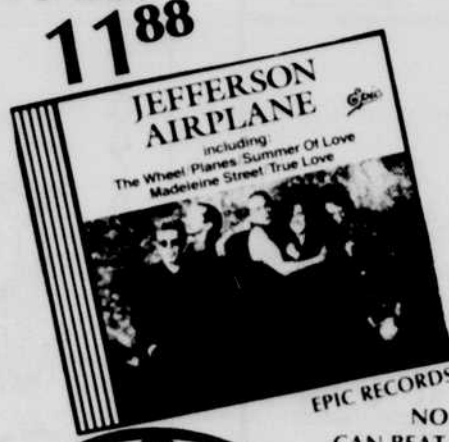
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