

SEA Continued from Page 1

SEA. "And there was a lot of early interest because we (DSS) need new funding each year for services we provide like note-taking and tutors," she said.

After an experimental meeting in early October, the group began meeting biweekly as they began the process of setting up the organization, formulating a constitution and stating their goals.

"The first goal for SEA — and it's too bad it has to be the first goal — is to get funding for DSS," said SEA co-director Julie Huber. "We have to be concerned about the funding because if we don't work for it ... it could be shut off quite a bit."

And if these finances were cut substantially, DSS wouldn't be able to provide the services some disabled students need to attend the University, noted SEA's other co-director, Greg Smith.

"We're at a struggle right now because we think we should be getting 'X' amount of money, but we're not sure of receiving it, and we're kind of at a standstill," he said. "To me, we deserve the finances to continue to go to school."

SEA's members plan to write letters to the Legislature and to Oregon State System of Higher Education Chancellor Thomas Bartlett to request more state funding, Huber said, adding that the students will also lobby the IFC for ASUO funds.

SEA also hopes to boost University consciousness of disability issues, Cavendor said.

"By being an organization, SEA creates awareness and by being active it creates even more awareness," she said, adding that increased awareness is the first step toward improving campus disability issues such as wheelchair accessibility in buildings.

"If you have awareness, then it's a lot easier to start the process of change because more people understand why you want things to change."

SEA plans to increase campus awareness through events such as a video presentation planned for this term entitled "Don't Go To Your Room," which deals with issues concerning women with disabilities.

Moreover, the group's officers have been maintaining a dialogue with disabled students organizations at other universities to learn how to best set up SEA. SEA's officers plan to visit Oregon State University's organization later this term, Huber said.

"Right now our number one wish is to get funding for DSS," she said. "Once we have that we can do the nice little things like try to get an office and try to get funding for SEA as a student group separate from DSS."

SEA could have its wishes realized sooner if more students would get involved, Huber said. Of 150 students who use the disabilities office each term, only four or five show up regularly to SEA meetings.

"I am disappointed ... about the disabled students who aren't involved because this is for them, and this is their funding," Huber said. "If people don't work for it, they're not going to have it in the next terms."

Cavendor also pointed out that SEA is open to non-disabled students who are interested in learning about disability issues.

"I would really encourage anyone to find out about people with disabilities," she said. "You'll find out they're just normal people like yourselves."

Technology Continued from Page 1

This new technology is creating many new physical and social possibilities for the disabled as well as for society.

Profitable purchases

The surge of specially-adapted equipment began about two years ago, says Suzie Cavendor, a counselor for students with disabilities in the University's Office of Academic Advising and Student Services.

Approximately two dozen University students who are physically or learning disabled are beginning to profit from recent purchases.

During the last two years the ASUO and the president's office gave a total of \$40,000 to purchase an array of new equipment and services for disabled students, Cavendor says.

The Kurzweil Personal Reader with its nine voices and \$18,000 worth of IBM computer equipment provide students with word-processing capabilities on enlarged-type monitors, text scanning that reads aloud and a Braille printer.

Three FM loops also were purchased at \$600 apiece to aid hearing impaired students in the classroom. With these devices, a professor's voice can be transmitted by FM radio waves to a student in the room. The instructor wears a small transmitter, which looks like a mi-

crophone, and the student wears a battery-powered receiver.

Although the equipment is very expensive, it is an excellent investment, Cavendor says.

equipment has dramatically increased the amount of work she is able to do on her doctoral thesis and the speed at which she can work, Miller says.

"Before, after a couple of hours on a regular computer

'With the new technology, nothing can stop a disabled person from being an active, able participant.'

— Suzie Cavendor

"With the new technology, nothing can stop a disabled person from being an active, able participant," Cavendor says.

screen I'd be absolutely wiped out," she said.

Now that fatigue is not much of an obstacle, Miller says she

Removing obstacles

The recently-purchased

Turn to Technology, Page 12

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