

# University works to accommodate disabled students

By Jen Ellison  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The 1990 American Disabilities Act requires the University to provide services that permanently and temporarily disabled students need in order to function on campus.

Hilary Gerdes, Office of Academic Advising and Student Services counselor for students with disabilities, is the one faculty member who makes sure the University's 200 or so disabled students receive these services.

Gerdes coordinates faculty and staff to help disabled students. Her department, Services for Students with Disabilities, provides such services as note-takers to accompany students to class, readers who record students' textbooks onto tape and mobility help if students can't transport themselves to class.

Other services provided by the department include a quiet place to take tests with someone who will read the questions and record the answers, class relocation to rooms with easier access and meeting with faculty on the specific needs of the students.

Disabilities that qualify students for these services are blindness or visual impairment, deafness or hearing impairment, mobility difficulty, such as using a wheelchair or braces, learning disabilities and severe psychological problems.

Services for Students with Disabilities also provides services for students with temporary disabilities such as broken arms or legs, severe illnesses, temporary sight or hearing problems and head injuries.

In addition to working directly with disabled students,

Gerdes also meets with prospective new students with disabilities and the students' parents.

"We're having increasing numbers of prospective students coming to learn what services we have available and to see if this is an appropriate place for them," she said. "We also need to know what services we will need to have available for these new students."

New students' needs are determined before the student starts school.

Although Gerdes advises about 200 disabled students, more than that come in every week.

"We get a lot of people coming in who think that they might have a disability, like a learning disability," Gerdes said. "They have been having difficulty learning over the years but were never tested for a disability in the past."

Gerdes also gets visits from students who have been on campus for a couple of years who have refused to admit that they had a disability. They are starting to see that they are eligible for services that will make life easier for them.

Along with her counseling duties, Gerdes is involved with a number of committees. As a member of the Campus Planning Committee, she watches over the planning of new buildings and renovations to assure equal access for the disabled.

"I'm kind of their watch dog," she said.

As coordinator of the Disability Project, which began in 1988, she works to secure additional services, which aren't required by law, for disabled students.

**'We need more education for the faculty ... teaching the faculty about disabilities and how to accommodate students with disabilities can make a difference.'**

— Hilary Gerdes,  
counselor for students with disabilities

One of these extra services is a new computer system for the visually impaired. Located in Knight Library, it can talk to its users, print in braille and can optically scan a page and read it out loud.

Working full time with one part-time graduate teaching fellow, Gerdes feels strained.

"I wish I had more help," she said. "If a couple of students are having a rough term, it takes a lot of my time. I don't have time for everybody else."

In addition to additional staff in the office, Gerdes said she sees a need for education.

"We need more education for the faculty," she said. "People don't understand the intricacies of a head injury and things like that. Teaching the faculty about disabilities and how to accommodate students with disabilities can make a difference."

## Students to discuss fee proposal

By Chester Allen  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Student government leaders, divided over University President Myles Brand's plan to change the present system of distributing student fees, announced Wednesday they will meet twice next week to hammer out a compromise response to the plan.

Brand's plan would take away the Incidental Fee Committee's authority to allocate about \$1.8 million in student fees to EMU programs. The plan would give the EMU board direct control of a portion of each year's student fees.

Every full-time student pays \$106 in student fees each term.

The ASUO, IFC and the EMU board will conduct a public meeting April 5 in the EMU Ben Linder Room from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. to hear student opinions on Brand's proposal.

Student government groups will again meet in EMU Cedar Room D April 7 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. to draft a response to Brand's plan.

Vern Ho, a professional facilitator, will act as a neutral mediator during the second meeting to help student government groups reach a united compromise to Brand's plan, said ASUO President Bobby Lee.

Although student government leaders have disagreed whether Brand's plan, released in February, is worthwhile, Lee said he hopes the meetings will help iron out differences and produce a better plan than Brand's.

Lee said he believed there are "better ways" to distribute student money to the EMU, but he declined to reveal details until next week's meetings.

"In the end we all may agree to disagree," Lee said. "We all may come up with our own pro-

posals, but I believe we will all make a good-faith effort and reach a compromise."

However, EMU board Chairman Joe Grube said he believes Brand's plan is good because it removes a layer of bureaucracy in the EMU budgeting system.

The EMU board tried to negotiate the issue with the IFC during fall term, but committee members never showed up at scheduled meetings, Grube said.

"I will try to work toward a consensus to a point, but if it doesn't happen by April 7, it won't happen at all," Grube said.

Lee said he hoped students would attend both meetings.

"Students pay about \$106 a term in fees," Lee said. "Because they're investing their money in this institution, they should take this opportunity to speak out on how the fees should be spent."

## NUDITY

Continued from Page 1

party included Lonsdale and pop singer Carole King. Neither King nor Lonsdale were in any nude scenes captured by the video.

On May 14, 1991, under the headline, "Harry lies," the *Chieftain* accused Lonsdale of making false statements about the trip.

The *Chieftain* said Lonsdale finally admitted he was on the trip only after it was confirmed by an ex-campaign manager.

At the time the weekly's articles were published, Lonsdale, a Democrat, was challenging Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., in a close race that followed Lonsdale's narrow loss to Sen. Mark Hatfield in 1990.

The article said Lonsdale had raised "the appearance of impropriety. It is now clear that Harry Lonsdale is not the person he says he is and that his regard for the truth is beneath the office he seeks."

Lonsdale demanded a retraction on May 29, according to the suit. Instead, the *Chieftain* published a second article saying that Lonsdale "not only condones but enjoys watching lewd behavior when he's at the beach in Wallowa County."

According to the lawsuit, the *Chieftain* editorialized that the activities Lonsdale considers "good clean fun down at the beach" includes "nude sunbathing, urinating in the river, howling at the moon."

Lonsdale's suit said the Senate candidate was an invited guest on the float trip and exercised no control over the other guests. He "neither participated in, nor observed, any unlawful, destructive or immoral behavior," the suit said.

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The Oregon Daily Emerald, the independent student newspaper at the University of Oregon, is currently accepting applications for the position of Editor for the 1993-94 academic year.

Eligible candidates must be either an undergraduate student at the University enrolled for a minimum of six credit hours per term in three of the four academic quarters of his or her term as Editor, or a graduate student at the University enrolled for a minimum of three credit hours per term in three of the four academic quarters of his or her term as Editor. All applicants must be in good academic standing.

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published by a non-profit corporation which operates independently of the University. The primary purpose of the ODE is to provide education and training for students in all aspects of newspaper operation by serving a campus audience with news, editorial and advertising content.

The Editor of the ODE, who reports to a 10-person volunteer Board of Directors, has responsibility for all editorial operations and all editorial content of the newspaper. Term of office is June 8, 1993 throughout the last issue of Spring term, 1994, and is preceded by an orientation period which begins no later than May 1 and extends through June 7. This is a paid position.

Interested parties should pick up an application packet, which includes a job description, at the ODE front desk in Suite 300 EMU or call 346-5511 for more information.

Completed applications must be returned to the ODE Board of Directors in the ODE office by 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 2, 1993. An individual will be selected by the Board on April 20, 1993.

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