

Class will design metro area disabled access guide

By Rebecca Merritt
Oregon Daily Emerald

University students can aid the city of Eugene by helping the disabled.

A new class in the planning, public policy and management program offers students the chance to help organize a disabled access guidebook for metropolitan Lane County.

Last year, the Eugene Community Access Committee recommended the city update its guidebook. The book, which identifies handicapped accessible businesses and recreation facilities, was organized in 1982 and revised in 1987 through volunteer efforts.

The city did not have the financial or volunteer resources to adequately upgrade the new guidebook. So Rosie Pryor, community relations manager for Eugene's

planning and development program, presented the project to University Vice President Dan Williams last spring.

The University agreed to help the city by funding a class fall term under the direction of Professor David Povey. Students enrolled in the class, preferably juniors or seniors, will design and distribute a survey regarding accessibility to local businesses, Povey said. If time permits, the class may also help design and lay out the book and present it to interested groups.

"It's an opportunity for students to get involved in really important and timely assistance of people in need," he said. "I feel lucky we can help the city."

The new guidebook, Pryor said, will accommodate more than just the visibly physically disabled. Those who are hard of hearing, blind or have learning disabilities can also make use of the book.

"Accessibility crosses a range of disabilities," Pryor said. "The book will be used by people wanting to be out and about in the community."

The city organized a panel of disabled citizens last year to determine what should be included in the guide. The panelists agreed priorities for the 1993 book include accessibility of public transportation, restaurants, recreation facilities, theaters, hotel and motels, and public meeting areas.

Povey and student directors Mike Schut and Eileen Marie will work closely with Pryor and other city officials throughout the term. Lane Transit District and Willamalane Parks and Recreation District is also helping with the project.

Povey said the three-credit class has room for six to 10 students and will probably meet once a week. The class, he said, is not limited to PPPM majors.

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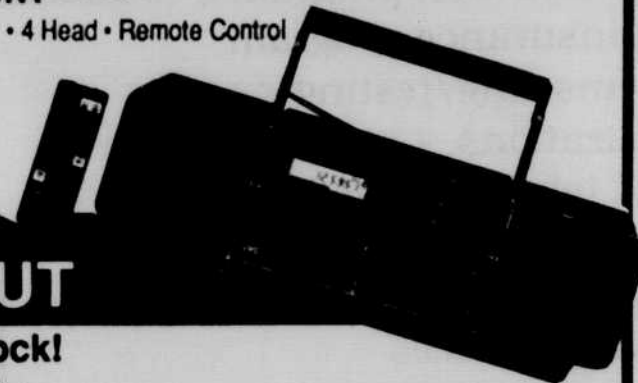


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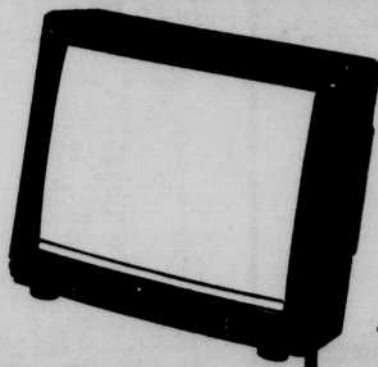
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EXAM

Continued from Page 6

The more questions I asked, the less alienated I felt toward my body. This in turn relaxed me, and I felt less pain and discomfort.

I can see now why this experience is called empowerment, because for the first time I was not ashamed or embarrassed by my genitalia. It's just another part of my body, and it holds awesome powers.

On the way out, I was greeted by a friend who is an intern at the Student Health Center for class credit. We babbled as she pricked my finger and checks my blood for anemia.

As I breezed out the door, my friend ran out and told me I forgot to pay the cashier the \$65 it costs for the entire exam (the Pap smear costs \$20 and is billed to your home by the lab).

A little embarrassed, I returned to the office that I almost forgot is a place of business, because I was made to feel so at home.

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