

New club for disabled students

By LAURIE PEACHER
Collegian Staff Writer

Stranded in parking lot 80—a legendary affliction for East Hall residents. But imagine sitting in a mechanized wheelchair in that immense area when the motor suddenly dies.

This and other unique problems often hit the 200 or 300 physically handicapped or disabled students on campus, making their life even more complicated than most students, according to Carol Roush, Career Development and Placement counselor.

"They are a source of inspiration for me," Roush said. "They've had to face walls higher than any I'll ever have to climb."

Roush has formed a group for disabled students. "The blacks, international students, EOP students all have organizations. But there is nothing for the handicapped," she said.

"I see them (in the group) as helping each other," Roush said, "maybe more than I could. I don't know what they've had to face."

Her main problem now is locating the disabled students. The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, a federal organization which distributes funds to the handicapped, and Ritenour Health Center both consider their records confidential, making her task even more difficult.

"I want to know how I can let them know that someone is there to help," she said.

Roush stressed the difference between being

handicapped and disabled: "There are many people who don't view themselves as handicapped. It's all in the perception. A disability is what is actually wrong with a person, what is malfunctioning. But what is a handicap for some may not be for others."

Whether person views himself as handicapped or disabled, he is placed in a difficult position when choosing a career or just surviving at the university, Roush said. And these problems are what she hopes to alleviate through her program.

One aspect, assertiveness, is an interpersonal skill that all should acquire, she explained. But to a disabled student, it is critical.

"The handicapped or disabled person has to ask a lot of favors," the counselor said. "To survive, they all need lots of help. But no matter how much they need help, they hate to ask for it. If a person is not assertive enough to get the information he needs, it could be a big problem."

Their problems lie not only with the disabled students but in the insensitivity of those working with them. What happens if a professor decides to change a class from the first to the second floor of Chambers without checking if an elevator is available, or even without informing the student, Roush asked.

Disabled students are often counseled inadequately, she said, because they are allowed to pursue a career where their handicap could create a definite problem. Many of the physically handicapped who attended the Commonwealth Cam-

pusse before coming to University Park had already started work in their major, despite faulty advising.

"We won't stop them from their chosen work," she said. "We just want to make sure they've thought of all the alternatives and consequences."

Other students may not have such crucial problems in their chosen field, but may still have questions about their disability and how it could affect their work. She cited the problem of a girl with a back problem who hoped to be a research technician until she realized the problems involved in bending over a microscope all day. Roush said she spoke with her and helped her find a comparable field using the same skills.

The placement office's goal is to "help students find direction in life, set a goal and move towards it," she said. And finding the correct career affects all parts of a person's life—social as well as academic. She aims to help students get any information that will move the student closer to his career goal.

Roush has high goals for her group—"to aid students in identifying, anticipating and coping with problems, concerns and barriers at PSU"—but she feels the handicapped student also needs a place to go to discuss his unique problems.

Anyone interested should call before Christmas break at 863-0225 or stop by 406 Boucke.



You rang?
TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS in the HUB have an added dimension with a pinata made for the International Holiday Festival hovering above the Information Desk.

Penn State alums set bowl festivities

The Penn State Club of Louisiana has a few things planned for students flying south for the New Year, if they're going to the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans.

Beginning Dec. 29, the club will set up an information desk at the Royal Orleans Hotel, 600 St. Louis St. in the French Quarter. It will provide information about restaurants and hotels for students concerned about having a good time and saving money. People at the

desk also will help them make reservations at these places.

On New Year's Eve, the club will co-sponsor a party at the ballroom in the Astrodome with Mambo Productions. The party, open to all Penn States, will begin at 4:30 p.m. and continue until the game begins. It will resume at half-time and again after the game until 12:30 a.m.

The party will feature a light buffet—hors d'oeuvres, roast beef sandwiches—and a cash bar. Entertainment will be provided by Professor Longhair, called "the Father of Rock and Roll," Willie Tee and the Gators, and the Wild Magnolias.

Tickets for the party are available on the ground floor HUB. Information about New Orleans accommodations will also be available at the table in the HUB.

Lawmakers deride gays

HARRISBURG (AP)—A group of state lawmakers met yesterday to talk about homosexuals. They couldn't decide whether to bar gays from some state jobs or ban them from the state payroll entirely.

"I think it's best not havin' 'em nowhere. Let's get rid of 'em," said Rep. Ralph Garzia, D-Delaware. "They make you feel uneasy."

Garzia and the rest of the House Labor Relations Committee are considering a bill to prohibit homosexuals from working as state policemen, prison guards or at other jobs in state institutions.

The committee appeared to reach a consensus that at least a few restrictions are needed to limit state employment of gays.

A subcommittee was named to study the bill further and make a report early next year.

The controversy was prompted by an executive order from Gov. Shapp earlier this year. Shapp ordered state agencies not to deny anyone a job because of his or her sexual preferences.

The order sparked immediate criticism from State Police Commissioner James Barger and several lawmakers. They said they have nothing against homosexuals but don't want them in jobs where they might use their authority to get sexual

favours from citizens.

Led by Rep. W. William Wilt, R-Blair, the House and Senate agreed quickly to a ban on homosexuals holding certain state jobs. Shapp vetoed it in October, calling it "the worst written bill I've ever received."

Several committee members made fun of or derided homosexuals. Committee chairman Joseph Valicenti, D-Allegheny, called the pending bill "a sweetheart."

Rep. Marvin Miller, R-Lancaster, joked that the bill needs a new definition for homosexual. "One who likes his vice versa," Miller suggested.

The bill now defines homosexual as "one who is inclined to or who practices or engages in sexual activity with a member of one's own sex."

Rep. Peter Perry, D-Philadelphia, wondered if that was too broad. "If you just think about it, you're inclined," Perry said.

"It covers the covert type, who's underground," said Rep. Peter Vroon, R-Chester. "We've got some in the House."

Vroon later told a reporter that he wouldn't identify homosexual legislators because he didn't know for sure they are gay. "I've just heard rumors," Vroon said.

Contraceptive program growing

Peer counselors needed

PCEP can tell you almost anything you want to know about sexuality and contraception, from abstinence to IUD's.

Sponsored by Ritenour Health Center, PCEP stands for Peer Contraception Education Program. It is designed to inform students about various contraceptive devices, using qualified undergraduates and graduate students as educators.

According to J. Robert Wirag, educator for University Health Services,

students began the program because they were interested in efficient, effective responses to women's requests for contraception.

"Women's health needs were beginning to increase," he said. "Women were not only asking for but demanding more gynecological services. Physicians found they were spending an unusual amount of time explaining methods and devices involving contraceptives."

But to keep the program successful, more student

educators are needed. Qualified applicants, with background in human sexuality, anatomy, physiology and/or family studies, will be selected and trained for this soon.

"People interested in becoming peer educators will be screened," Wirag said. "We are concerned about what people know, but we are more concerned about how well people can relate what they know to a group or individual."

It also will teach trainees to

be comfortable with their knowledge about contraception. According to training coordinator Janet Risenzweig (10th-individual and family studies) this is important because they'll be relating this knowledge to a large number of people. "It's got to be accurate and handled correctly," she said.

Applications are now being taken in 221 Ritenour, and an introductory meeting will be held 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15 in the waiting area at Ritenour.

How to get into law school.

That's the title of a new book, written by a law school graduate, that details ways to improve your chances of getting into law school. It includes the critical role of the Law School Data Assembly Service, and how to use its rules to boost your GPA. How to study for the LSAT. When and how to apply to law school. And much more. Total refund after 30 days if you are not completely satisfied.

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