

THE ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT



- a review of laws, programs, and issues
affecting the disabled community -

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SPECTRUM

We would like to reiterate "The Accessible Environment" is being published by the Supportive Services' Office of Handicapped Student Services at UMD. However, we want this newsletter to reach a much broader spectrum than just students who are disabled. It is our aim to review the laws, programs, and issues affecting the disabled community. If you have an interest in the rights and opportunities for the disabled, both on campus and with the community, and wish to be informed about such matters, then this newsletter is for you also.

We trust that a channel of communication can be opened between you and the UMD Office of Handicapped Student Services. We want to know what your needs and interests are. With that knowledge, we'll try our best to act on them and keep you informed on what can and is being done.

Now you can help us by passing this newsletter along to a person with a disability or to someone else who you think might be interested. In addition, please fill out the feedback form on the last page of this newsletter and return it to Library 134, % John Kulick. Let us hear from you.

OFFICE OF HANDICAPPED STUDENT SERVICES

John Kulick has replaced Jim Shearer as Coordinator of Handicapped Student Services. John comes from the Community College of Denver (CCD)-Westminster, Colorado. He served as the Counselor for the Disabled while with CCD. He brings with him a wide variety of skills with respect to persons who are disabled. Please do not hesitate to utilize his skills. The office has moved from Administration 102 to Library 135, phone 726-7965.

Jim Shearer is still with us and is working full-time for Plant Services as Executive Assistant to the Director of the Department of Physical Plant Operations. Jim was just recently appointed chairperson of the Minnesota State Council for the Handicapped. We are very happy to still have Jim's expertise and influence available. We wish him the best of luck in all current and future endeavors.

In addition to many other roles, the main goal of this office is to offer assistance in solving concerns which are related to persons who are disabled. While this office does not function as a rehabilitation service, John Kulick is available to assist and facilitate an individual's successful college career. As an example, in planning an academic program you may need a sounding board for your ideas. Concerns such as schedules, class location, parking, housing and course requirements are all important considerations in your planning efforts. From time to time concerns can, and do, arise with regard to note-taking, testing procedures, assignments, field trips, and reading as a result of a disabling condition. When situations like these come up, this office can serve as a go-between with students and faculty in seeking solutions to these concerns.

In addition to this publication, this office offers other information and referral services. We have compiled a resource library of information on issues related to the disabled which are available to be used and may be of interest to persons with or without a disability. These resources will be featured from time to time in subsequent issues. From past experience it has been found that in

most instances your situation, concern, or question is not unique and by either talking about it or becoming aware of resource material that is available a situation, need, or question can be resolved.

TERMS you may encounter in working with persons who are disabled :

NOTE-TAKER - A note-taker is usually another student in the class of a student who because of visual, hearing, learning, or mobility impairment, is unable to take her/his own notes. The note-taker will make his/her own notes in class and give either a carbon or photocopy of those notes to the disabled student. Thus, those notes give the student with a disability better odds of getting all the material; this is important since she/he may not be able to hear, write, or see.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT

- Q. What is the best single source of information about the needs of the student with a disability?
- A. The logical place to begin is with the student who most often knows first-hand his/her own abilities, disabilities, and needs. Upon request from a student, faculty member, or staff member, Handicapped Student Services (HSS) is available for assistance in problem-solving.

ISSUES AND ANSWERS FOR IMPLEMENTING SECTION 504. (From the National Association of College and University Business Officers-NACUBO)

- Q. To what extent is the institution responsible for the accessibility of facilities used for off-campus events such as museums, theaters, stadia, and so forth?

Position. The institution has an obligation to ensure that such facilities are accessible, on the whole, to the extent that they are: (1) used as a part of any program of the institution; or (2) the subject of significant assistance that the institution provides to the owner or operator of the facility. If such facilities are not a part of any institutional program (e.g., an art museum that must be visited as part of an art appreciation course) or significant assistance is not extended to the owner or operator (e.g., allowing free advertising in the campus publications), then the institution has no obligation with regard to their accessibility.

In selecting such facilities for use in programs of the institution, the institution should select, whenever

Issues and Answers continued

possible, those that are accessible or receive federal financial assistance of their own and have independent accessibility obligations.

"N.B." - It must be emphasized that these positions have not been formally cleared as positions of the federal government. They have not been formally approved by HEW. However, they have been reviewed by and discussed in great detail with representatives of HEW's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), and there is agreement that the positions conform to the intent of the statute and implementing regulations. NACUBO and the American Council on Education have submitted these positions to OCR for formal approval and endorsement.

BITS AND PIECES

Free-U Activities

UMD students who are disabled, here's an opportunity to use the pool facilities. The Free-U presents an opportunity for recreational swimming with certified instructors available for lessons if desired. The pool will be open for individuals from UMD and the community who are disabled from 3:00 to 4:30 on Sunday afternoons, starting Oct. 14. Assistance will be available in the pool, if necessary. Contact the Free-U (Bob or Dave) for more information: Library 113, 726-8524.

Recreational Sports and the Physically Disabled

Dan Brynes of Courage Center in Duluth is sponsoring a number of programs in the community (i.e. wheelchair basketball, swimming, track events, archery, etc.). Contact Dan at 727-6817 for further information.

Training and Placement Services (TAPS) in Action

The mission of TAPS is to increase the employment rate of persons with epilepsy by providing support services and on-the-job training. Designed specifically for the person with epilepsy, these services assist people to get and keep appropriate long-term employment. For further information contact Jeff Francin -Project Coordinator, 722-4526.

Bulletin Board News

A bulletin board posting a variety of information with respect to persons with disabilities (i.e., what do you do when you see a "blind" person?, suggestions for interaction with the hearing impaired, miscellaneous announcements, etc.) will be posted outside John Kulick's office, Library 135.

Stop by!

In order to better understand the needs, interests, and concerns of the UMD community, we are asking you to please complete this form and return it to Library 134, UMD.

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- I would be interested in being on the mailing list of this newsletter.
- I have some information, articles, etc. that I would like to submit to this newsletter.
- I'm interested in knowing more about the laws and regulations that address themselves to the needs of disabled people.
- I would be interested in project taping materials, such as this newsletter, for persons with visual impairments or reading difficulties.
- I would be interested in participating in this project.
- I have encountered some specific problems which I think should be examined.
Please describe briefly:

Questions I would like to see responded to in the "Question and Answer" column.

Additional comments concerning this newsletter or this general area:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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L. baur
DONALD PEARCE

Return to: UMD Supportive Services
Office of Handicapped Student's Services
Library 134
Duluth, MN 55812