

A line for those who need help

By DEBORAH PETERSON
Of the Emerald

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles on crisis counseling in this area.

"A lot of us are Christians. This is our reason for wanting to help people," said Hot Line volunteer Sheryll Burgess.

Hot Line is another crisis-counseling service in Eugene. Unlike White Bird's Bummer Squad, however, its services are dispensed strictly over-the-phone. It is also run by Christians, although their advertisements do not say so.

Hot Line's staff is composed strictly of volunteers, all of whom are students. "We don't require our staff to be students," Sheryll explained, "that's just the way it's worked out."

The inspiration for Hot Line came from Randy Williams, a Northwest Christian College student who previously worked with White Bird—Eugene's equivalent of a free clinic, Looking Glass—Lane County's agency dealing with runaways and Switchboard—Eugene's general information center for hitchhikers, persons searching for housing and persons hunting for lost animals.

Hot Line's services began last winter. Some forty volunteers manned its phones between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m., seven days a week. This summer, however, Hot Line remains available only four days a week, Wednesday through Saturday, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

"We deal with all kinds of situations—from people who have taken drug overdoses to people who are just lonely. Mainly,

we just talk to people," Sheryll said.

"There's always a guy and a girl here when we're open," Sheryll continued. "We have a conference telephone line, meaning we can get another group, such as White Bird, on the line if we can't deal with a problem. We aren't able to do any long-term counseling, so we do a lot of referrals," she said.

Hot Line's volunteers, according to



Sheryll, are prepared for the various telephone calls they might receive through a series of training seminars. "There are a total of five, two-hour seminars offered to Hot Line's would-be volunteers," Sheryll said. "Each person who wants to join our crew must attend at least three of these seminars."

Potential volunteers are also asked to take a test designed to assess their ability to deal with drug-related problems. The exam is designed to determine their ability to identify various drug symptoms as discussed in a booklet on drugs published by the EMU Drug Information Center.

"Randy Williams is responsible for screening our volunteers," Sheryll said. "We also practice phone situations with Randy before we ever answer any real crisis calls."

All the funding to keep Hot Line going has come from its volunteers. "We're doing it just because we care," Sheryll concluded.

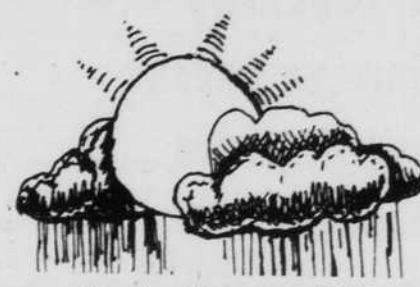
Contacts in such county agencies as the Mental Health Association were unable to provide any further information on Hot Line. They have not worked with the group. The Eugene and Springfield Police Departments also stated that they were unfamiliar with Hot Line.

For those who might wish to make use of these services, Hot Line's phone numbers are 484-9402 and 484-9443. Their location remains a secret for their own security, according to Sheryll, and because they do not have the facilities or training to deal with people on a drop-in basis.

Tomorrow: UO's Crisis Center.

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Debate curbs parking proposal

A proposal to decrease the number of campus parking spaces and to increase by 20 per cent parking permit fees is causing quite a controversy, Harold Babcock, director of the University physical plant, said Monday.

Polarization would be a good term to describe the differing attitudes Babcock said he has encountered over the current and future reduction in parking lot areas. "There are some who are really gung ho on reducing parking, while others think this definitely not the way to go," he commented. He did emphasize that the University's intent is to reduce the parking area.

Babcock added the University is following "in a general way" the principles outlined in the "Oregon Experiment," a published guide for future growth on campus. Christopher Alexander and others, who did the research for the guide, say nine per cent of the University's ground area is the ideal for parking space. Babcock says the University is thus aiming towards the nine per cent figure.

Babcock cited aesthetic considerations, the recent energy crisis and financial situation as reasons for cutting back. "People should not object," he said, "to walking five or ten minutes because this is such a small campus." More bus service and more use of bicycles is also being encouraged.

The idea of shuttle service from the parking lots at Autzen Stadium and Lane County Fairgrounds has just begun to be considered. Babcock said, however, it is doubtful if the footbridge near Autzen Stadium could be used for shuttle service.

Jim O'Donnell, parking administrator in Campus Security, confirmed Monday a proposed 20 per cent increase in the permit fee schedule. He also commented on a perennial sore spot, parking citations, and urged students to appeal if they feel they have been unjustly ticketed.

Students, faculty and staff may appeal citations first to the University's Traffic Petitions Officer and then to the University Traffic Appeals Board. Any person may also propose changes in campus parking regulations to the Transportation Subcommittee of the Campus Planning Committee before May 1 of each school year.

Sparks cause \$5,000 damage

Explosion empties lab ice-box

Sparks from an electrical circuit caused a refrigerator full of chemicals to blow up in the research laboratory of two chemistry graduate students in Science II Monday night, according to Eugene Fire Captain Neil Cannady.

Cannady said Tuesday afternoon that the refrigerator was of the common household design. Refrigerators specially built for chemical storage are built to withstand explosions and prevent stray sparks, according to Cannady.

Richard Gray, a doctoral candidate, and Tetsuo Otsubo, a post-doctoral chemist, were not in their lab when the explosion occurred at 7:30 p.m. A small fire was quickly extinguished by the Eugene Fire Department. No one else was in the area and no one was injured.

The exploding refrigerator blew out the outside wall and window next to it, shattered three adjacent windows and knocked out several ceiling tiles. The refrigerator door was blown several yards through a doorway and into an adjacent lab.

Cannady said the explosion and fire caused about \$2,500 damage to the structure and the same amount to the contents of the lab.

Gray said nothing of value to any project was in the refrigerator and, as far as he knew, there were no explosive chemicals in it.



[Photo by James Link]

Sorry, we're all out of ice...A University employee cleans up debris from a Monday night explosion in Science II. Neil Cannady, Eugene Fire Captain, said sparks from an electrical circuit touched-off a chemical-filled refrigerator.