

Handicapped. . .

Continued from page 1

The first step was for her to become CETA-qualified. This meant supplying information to the CETA office about the nature of her visual impairment.

She then was placed into a clerical training class of six. Jurgensen studies typing, working with office machines, filing, and answering phones—some of which she avoided or failed in before.

"This is different," she said, explaining the reason for her success.

"Everybody works at their own rate. Nobody's pushed, there's no competition thing. You don't have to wonder why somebody else is ahead of you. She also attributes her success to another person, Bonnita Sherburne.

Sherburne's official title is "trainer." Part of her job is to design an individual curriculum for each student.

She also works as a counselor, encouraging self-confidence in her students.

"The first step is for the trainee to acknowledge his or her limitations—to get a realistic idea of what can and cannot be done," Sherburne said.

"Then the person continues building an attitude on this position. Sometimes it is very, very hard to take this first step of admitting limitations. But it has to be done."

Another aspect of Sherburne's work, involves the creation of special equipment to help handicapped students.

As a result Jurgensen has a number of interesting and creative tools at her disposal. "Bonnita designed my entire

filing unit by herself," she says. The file folders have Braille tabs which Paula can read by touch. The material which she files has identifying Braille marks across the bottom.

She has a talking calculator to help her learn about office machines. The calculator announces figures and operations in a monotone, masculine voice. The key for "five" carries a bump indicating correct finger placement.

At the end of her training in February, Jurgensen will receive a Certificate of Completion. She said she wants to find a secretarial job somewhere in Lincoln.

"I've never really had that kind of a job before. I've done typing, but I've never been able to handle the filing and phone answering, and so forth."

She has a fairly good chance. Mrs. Sherburne estimates that the program will place about 85 percent of its graduates.

Besides work-training, the center operates an on-the-job training program. According to Wilhelm, applicants must receive CETA qualification, and then he or she is interviewed as to potential skills and interests.

"We then refer them to job positions on campus to develop their skills. They receive three months of work experience through the program, and then they are placed in a job in the community."

Though placement is not guaranteed by the center, Wilhelm claims that participants generally can find work when referred by the center. Payment for services during the time of training is made by CETA.

There are about 50 persons currently involved in the program. Sometimes, however, the greatest impact is not upon the trainee, but upon those with whom he or she works.

Dr. Marv Anderson is a shop foreman at the UNL Agricultural Engineering building. Three months ago Wilhelm called Anderson and told him of Ron Bauman, a brick mason who lost his sight through glaucoma and diabetes. His hobby was auto repair, and he was with the Employment Development Center.

"Ron Bauman trained us," Anderson said. "He was very, very comfortable with the eleven trucks he was in charge of maintaining. He's probably a much better mechanic than me. He's an amazing man."

But Bauman had more than a professional impact on Anderson.

"Every day I get a better perspective on life through Ron. Every day when I see him, I know he's not going to be able to see, and yet he can carry on.

"We tend to get involved in our own lives—the car breaks down, or the kids are sick or something. But here's Ron, and he has all the same problems, plus one more—he's blind.

"But he's overcome it. Sure, when he drops a little spring or something on the floor, and can't see to find it he's frustrated. But he considers it more of an aggravation thing than a handicap."

Recently, when Bauman's three-month CETA funding ran out, Anderson requested that he be kept on as a part-time mechanic.

The Employment Development Center does not restrict its services to people with physical disabilities. "Every disadvantaged person—physically, mentally, or economically—is welcome to join the program," Wilhelm said.

Flu...

Continued from page 1

Stoesz said the basic types of influenza are A and B. Type B affects mostly young people, he said, and Type A affects adults and children.

Another difference is that Type B does not change from year to year, Stoesz said. The vaccine used about 10 years ago still is effective for Type B, he said.

"Every eight or 10 years Type A undergoes a major transformation in the structure of the virus, so we have to develop a new vaccine every year or two," Stoesz said.

"Influenza origins cannot really be traced, Stoesz said. He added that influenza can be found in the population year-round, but breaks out primarily in winter when crowded indoor conditions transfer the virus.

Although doctors are acutely aware of influenza, not much can be done, Stoesz said. Since no antibiotic is effective for the viral infection, it has to run its 4-to-5 day course, he said.

Stoesz added that if a person has the flu virus, he should stay away from others during the viral phase to avoid spreading it.

"Limit your physical activities—studying is the most appropriate activity," Stoesz said. "Suspend athletics, of course. Stay in bed if you feel like you should be in bed. Drink plenty of fluids and take aspirin for the aches," he advised.

High-risk people, such as those with diabetes or heart conditions, should contact a physician, he said, and everyone should watch for complications of influenza, such as ear infections and pneumonia, he said.

"Avoiding the flu is primarily a matter of staying away from people. But it's almost impossible in the university setting to avoid coming into contact with ill people," Stoesz said.

Influenza does not appear to be a serious problem at UNL, according to Dr. Ralph Ewert, University Health Center clinician.

"No cases have been confirmed by the lab as actually being influenza," Ewert said, although some minor flu syndromes have been reported.

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