

Handicapped students have been given another boost

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A check for \$500 was presented Wednesday, December 20, to Dr. William McElroy, Chancellor of UCSD, by the members of the Pacific Beach Lions Club during the club's noon meeting held on the campus. The donation has been earmarked for the purchase of recording equipment especially modified for blind students.

According to Lance Beizer, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Director of Special Services at UCSD, donations and pledges given toward such equipment by the Lions Clubs of San Diego County now total \$3,000.

"The Lions Clubs of San Diego County have voted to make the Disadvantaged Students Program at UCSD an approved district-wide project," Beizer said. "This means that clubs from Brawley and El Centro to Imperial Beach and Vista are taking part in the project."

Chancellor McElroy, speaking at Wednesday's meeting, told the members of the Pacific Beach Lions that frequently UCSD doesn't have the money to do the things it would like to do.

"I mean the important things, such as aiding handicapped students, that don't require vast sums of money but which have difficulty getting listed in the budget," McElroy said. "Both public and private institutions have to depend on groups such as the Lions Clubs for the innovative programs that are so badly needed."

According to Beizer, three special rooms - one at John Muir College, one at Revelle College, and one in the Central University Library - have been set up to house the equipment required by blind students at UCSD.

"Our goal now is to purchase more equipment such as overhead projectors for those with severe sight problems but not totally blind, cassette recorders, and a braille typewriter and dictionary," Beizer said. "In addition, our long-range program calls for trained counselors, volunteer readers, and even campus maps and directories in braille."

"We want to establish a full-fledged disabled student program here," he said. "At present we have only 20 handicapped students, including five blind students, at UCSD. Less than one half of one per cent of our students are handicapped," Beizer said. "Compare this with the national picture in which 10 per cent of all Americans are handicapped and you can see that we have to do much more in this area."

Beizer told the Lions that the donations make UCSD eligible for matching funds from the Federal government on a four-to-one basis.

"In the past most handicapped students had to be redirected to such UC campuses as Riverside, Berkeley, or UCLA because UCSD didn't have the capabilities to take care of them," Beizer said. "The donations from the Lions and other service clubs, plus the matching funds make for some very exciting possibilities for the handicapped on the San Diego campus. "

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