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VOL. 17, NO. 2

SOUTH CAROLINA  
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

FEBRUARY, 1976

## South Carolina Ranks First In Services To Severely Disabled

South Carolina has given priority in providing services to its severely disabled citizens, rehabilitating 4,169 during fiscal year 1975.

Based on the number of severely disabled people rehabilitated per 10,000 disabled population, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department rehabilitated 238 per 10,000 as compared with the national average of 90. The Department's record of service ranked first nationally.

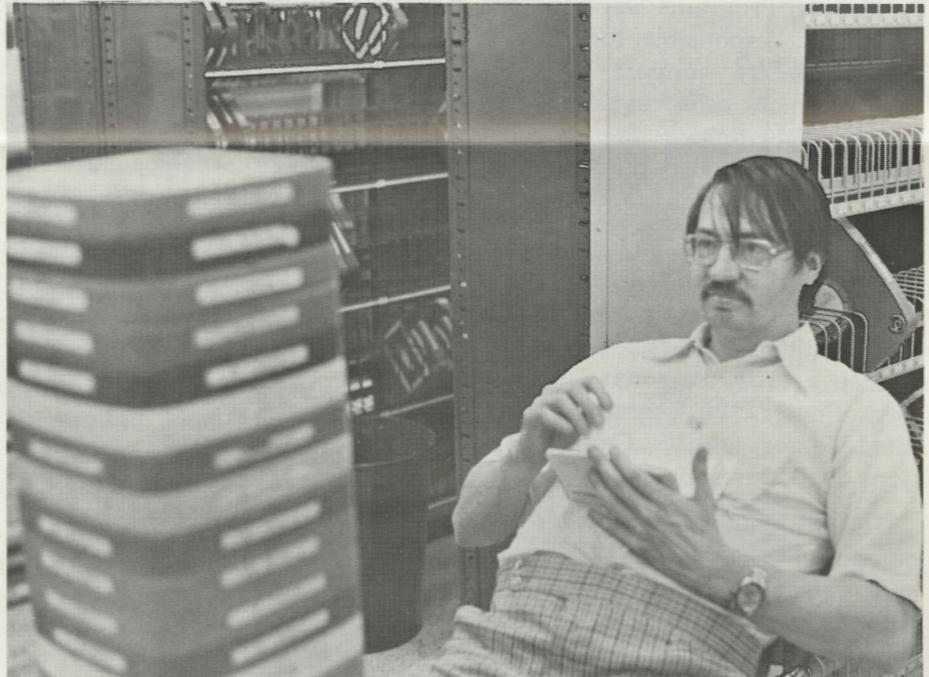
Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, agencies charged with the responsibility of providing vocational rehabilitation services to the disabled were required to give priority in serving the severely disabled.

Guidelines were set up in defining the "severely disabled" so that all states would be making the determination on equal terms.

A severely handicapped individual is a person who has a severe disability which seriously limits the functional capacities, that is mobility, communication, work skills, and self-care. Rehabilitation of the severely disabled to the point that gainful employment is possible usually requires multiple services over an extended period of time.

The disabilities which may be classified as severe include mental retardation, mental illness, deaf-

*(Continued on page 4)*



John B. McKeown, film shipper with the South Carolina Department of Education, prepares film for reshipment.

## Deaf Clients Work In Audio-Visual Section

The South Carolina Department of Education has three deaf people working in its Audio-Visual Section.

Mrs. Leila G. Cooper, manager of the section, says that John B. McKeown has worked as a film shipper for about two and a half years. He unpacks and packs film for mailing and prepares film cases for storage.

McKeown said he enjoys his work and he realizes that deaf people have a hard time finding jobs. He thought other deaf people should have an opportunity for a good job like he has.

He talked with his supervisor and convinced her that other deaf people should be hired in the section.

So two deaf film inspectors were hired. Carol Barnhill began working there last August and Nita Kyzer in October.

When filmstrips are returned from schools, the film inspectors are responsible for inspecting them to see that they are in the proper containers, that they have leaders with order identification information, and that they are not damaged. When repairs are necessary,

*(Continued on page 3)*

# USC Assists Handicapped Students

The University of South Carolina is making life easier on campus for the disabled students enrolled there through its Special Programs Development Center.

Bud Thurber, Coordinator of the Special Programs Development Center, is responsible for providing University support for programs which offer equal educational opportunities for disabled students. He is also the University's liaison with the agencies involved in the program.

The SPDC is one of four Centers located within the Counseling Bureau. Other centers within the Bureau are the Personal Development Center, the Career Development Center, and the Communications Skill Development Center.

The SPDC is unique in that it is composed of agencies that represent special interest groups on campus. The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, the South Carolina Commission for the Blind and the Veterans Administration have counselors on campus to provide services to University students as needed.

"The Center is working with the disabled students in the University Community," according to Mr. Thurber, "in trying to meet their special needs." When it is determined that a student needs assistance other than that offered in the SPDC, he may be referred to the other Centers within the Counseling Bureau.

According to Phil Grubbs, Vocational Rehabilitation counselor at the Center, one of the problems faced in the past by the University was the inability to adequately identify and respond to the disabled population. When the Center was created, this problem was eliminated.

"Having full-time agency counselors on campus makes it much easier for a student with a disabling condition to talk with someone who understands his problem," Mr. Grubbs says.

The Center is providing services to the nearly five hundred disabled students now attending the University. One of the services provided by the Center is early registration which enables disabled students to arrange class schedules that will accommodate their particular needs. Parking spaces are being reserved for these students to help them get to their classes more easily. In addition, curbs are being lowered and ramps to buildings are being built to eliminate mobility problems.

All architectural barriers cannot easily be eliminated, and disabled students will often discover that required classes have been

scheduled in classroom buildings that are not accessible. When this occurs, a recommendation is made by the SPDC in an attempt to re-schedule that class in a building that is accessible. With minor exceptions, this procedure has enabled students to enroll in classes required within their major.

The SPDC also played a key role in the adoption of a Housing Policy for Disabled Students by the University. Under the new policy, rooms are now being renovated in various locations on campus, in order to give the disabled students more choice in their housing accommodations. The University will not require disabled students to live in any specific area. Mr. Grubbs noted that disabled students do not want to be isolated from other students or be unnecessarily identified as being disabled.

*(Continued on page 3)*



The Advisory Committee for Handicapped Students meets to discuss those matters which make life easier for handicapped students at USC. Those pictured are: (from left) Bud Thurber, Phil Grubbs, John Elkins, Betty Wills, Dr. Judy Small, Dr. Serena Clark, David Harmon and Marilyn Horton.

**USC ASSISTS** (Continued)

As a result of these changing policies, they are interspersed into campus activities with other students.

The SPDC is also preparing a newsletter to be published on a regular basis, as well as a brochure and campus map which will be distributed to disabled students, agency counselors and prospective students. These publications will focus on special services and programs available to disabled students at the University.

Both Mr. Thurber and Mr. Grubbs feel that the University community is becoming more responsive to the needs of disabled students. "For a long time, they were not informed of these needs," Mr. Grubbs emphasized, "but as the communication channels are being improved, the services for the disabled are also being improved."

**DEAF** (Continued)

it is up to the inspectors to splice the film.

When they came on the job, an interpreter worked with the film inspectors to facilitate training them. They were able to learn their jobs well enough that the interpreter worked with them for only a few hours.

Mrs. Cooper says that when staff meetings are held, they make sure that the deaf employees are included and that they know what is being discussed.

**Chandler Appointed State Director Of White House Conference Activities**

Dr. Charles S. Chandler has been appointed to direct South Carolina's statewide activities related to the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. The appointment was made by Governor James B. Edwards.

Chandler will be assigned to the Office of the Governor on a part-time loan basis by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department. He serves as the Department's Supervisor of Research, Planning and Program Evaluation.

The White House Conference, which is scheduled for December, 1976, is an effort to generate a national awareness of the problems faced by individuals with mental or physical handicaps. Further, it will make recommendations to the President and Congress to help these individuals with handicaps to

live more independently.

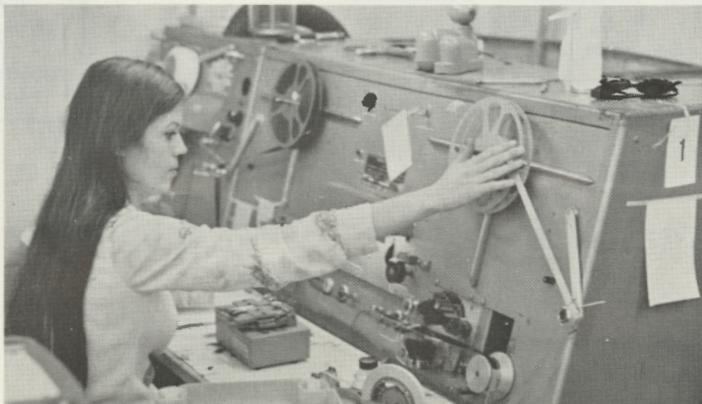
Plans are being made for conferences on the statewide and regional levels. These meetings will produce topics for discussion at the national conference.

Health, educational, social, economic and other special concerns of the disabled are expected to be considered at the White House Conference. A broad representation of individuals will be involved in formulating the recommendations to the White House Conference.

Chandler served as Director of the Governor's Statewide Rehabilitation Planning program from 1966-68. He has helped develop rehabilitation programs for the mentally ill and retarded, adult and youthful offenders, public assistance recipients, the deaf and other handicapped individuals.



NITA KYZER



CAROL BARNHILL

She says that there are 10 employees in the division where the deaf employees work. "They fit in well with other employees," she says, "to the point that teasing is exchanged between the deaf and hearing employees."

She notes that the deaf employees have no more problems adjusting to working with hearing people than the hearing people have to adjusting to working with the deaf.

# Study Ranks Social Distance of Various Handicapping Conditions

(Reprinted from *Success*, Pennsylvania Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, October, 1975)

Following are 21 disabilities listed in alphabetical order: Alcoholism, amputee, arthritis, asthma, blindness, cancer, cerebral palsy, deafness, diabetes, dwarf, epilepsy, ex-convict, heart disease, hunchback, mental illness, mental retardation, old age, paraplegic, stroke, tuberculosis, and ulcer.

Before reading any further, rank the above disabilities in their order of social acceptability to you, putting the most acceptable first and the least acceptable last.

Psychologist John L. Tringo of the University of Kentucky asked this question of 445 people in four groups; high school students, college students, graduate students, and rehabilitation workers. He wanted to study the "social distance" these people felt toward those who are handicapped.

Here are some findings:

—"Hidden" physical handi-

caps—ulcers, arthritis, asthma, diabetes, heart disease—were most acceptable. (Yet cancer, also usually a "hidden" disability, ranked far down the scale.)

—Amputees ranked higher than paraplegics.

—Blindness and deafness ranked in the upper third of acceptability. (Yet the employment rate of blind and deaf people is low.)

—At the bottom of the list were: mental retardation, alcoholism, and mental illness, ironically all disabilities that need more social support than some others.

What's the reason for these ratings? Bernard Posner, Executive Director of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, suggests that there is no use attaching any more reason to the rating than to the reasons why some people don't like those with dark skin and others don't like those with long hair and blue jeans.

Here's how the handicaps ranked in Dr. Tringo's study: Ulcer, arthritis, asthma, diabetes, heart disease, amputee, blindness, deafness, stroke, cancer, old age, paraplegic, epilepsy, dwarf, cerebral palsy, hunchback, tuberculosis, ex-convict, mental retardation, alcoholism, and mental illness.

## SOUTH CAROLINA RANKS FIRST

(Continued from page 1)

ness, orthopedic deformities and injuries, epilepsy, cardiac and renal conditions.

Dill D. Beckman, Commissioner of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, says, "Our Department can only serve those who have a reasonable expectation of employment, and the severely disabled present quite a challenge in this respect."

"Counselors are faced with a great deal more difficulty in working with the severely disabled," according to Beckman, "since they usually require more services from vocational rehabilitation." He adds, "Then when the counselor considers the client ready for employment, he is faced with the added problem of finding employers who are willing to employ individuals with severe disabling conditions."

Beckman notes that "many who appear too severely disabled to hold jobs are now working regularly and their employers are pleased with their production in a work situation."

**REGION IV MEETING  
NATIONAL REHABILITATION  
ASSOCIATION  
Landmark Motor Inn  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina  
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