

# Handicapped court basketball prowess

By Cathy Foreman

The first annual Wheelchair Basketball Classic will be at 3 p.m. today in the Women's Gym with the Student Life staff playing against the handicapped students' "Spokesmen."

Jim Hayes, coordinator of the Educational Support Services Office which is sponsoring the game, said both teams will play the full game in wheelchairs.

"We feel that discussion concerning the disabilities of handicapped students has gone unanswered by positive statements regarding the abilities of handicapped students," said Hayes.

Roger Twibell, Channel 4 sportscaster, will emcee the game and Toni Moynihan, SAB director, will referee. The game is free.

Chairman Kenneth Parson and Community Service Involvement Council members are conducting their business on campus in wheelchairs as publicity for the game and for their part in Wheelchair Awareness Day which ends with the basketball game.

Parson said the members were finding out what problems handicapped students encounter during the day in hopes of "using our mobility to fight for improvements." The most common problems are finding ramps into the buildings and finding accessible elevators.

"Sometimes it's necessary to leave classes early just to get to your next class," Parson said. "A route has to be mapped out and then it can't be changed."

Council member April May also participated in wheelchair awareness and found problems in reaching elevator buttons and with swinging doors, particularly the doors connecting Trimble and Hammond Halls. She also noted student reactions to fellow students in wheelchairs.

"It's like they glance at you, but they don't want to stare," she said. "I haven't ever been on the receiving side of that look before."