

Mini-Driveways Help Out

Sam Provence really gets around.

And, with the addition of new concrete ramps on-campus, he'll really get around, because he won't need anybody's help then.

Provence is president of the UT Arlington Handicapped Students' Association, and he's confined to a wheelchair. Until maintenance crews at UTA installed the more than 30 con-

crete ramps around campus, he and other members of his club had a little difficulty with curbs — but no longer.

Ramps were installed at the request of HSA and will replace wooden ramps built several years ago by Alpha Phi Omega, a campus service fraternity. Heavy equipment being used in campus construction has destroyed several of these wooden ramps.

The handicapped students' organization was formed in September 1968, with Provence, a freshman from Arlington Sam Houston, as its first president. After a year's absence from office during which another Arlington student, Joseph S. Rowe, served as president, Provence is again heading the organization.

The group is now seeking on-campus housing facilities de-

signed with handicapped students in mind. Provence says at least one handicapped student now lives in university housing.

"There are fewer architectural barriers at UTA," said Provence. "Most of the buildings are new and consequently have elevators. And when a handicapped student must schedule a class in a building without elevators, officials will usually move the class to accommodate the handicapped student."

In addition to the ramps and elevator facilities, UTA also provides special parking privileges for handicapped students.

Although many are confined to wheel chairs, such as the association's two leaders, handicapped students are becoming more active in student affairs through their new organization. Provence estimates there are 50 to 60 handicapped students on the campus. Only 15 are association members.

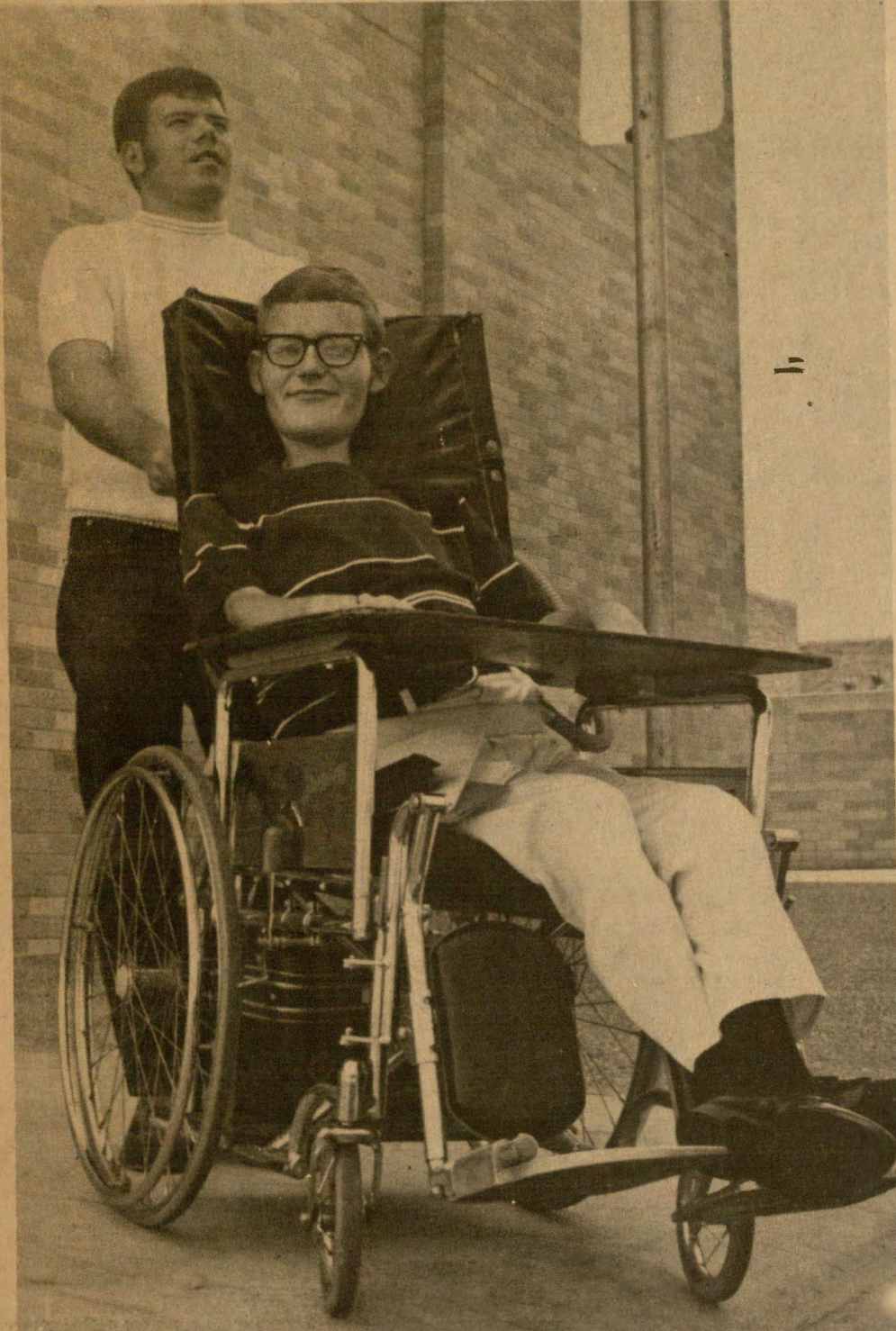
"Handicapped students are no different than other students when it comes to participating in campus activities," said the junior business administration major. "Some are withdrawn because they are handicapped, but many are just apathetic like other students."

Provence, however, is proud of the handicapped students' academic record at UTA. Several are consistently on the honor rolls. Last year's association president, Rowe, was the first student in the School of Business Administration to graduate with a perfect 3.0 grade point average.

Many handicapped students depend on their family or friends for help getting to classes. Some have motorized chairs, but others, like Provence, have to ask classmates for help.

"Thumbing a ride to class isn't hard," he said. "Someone is always willing to help. About the only difficulty is when a friend forgets to come get me after class.

"And then I just thumb a push from someone else."



HELPING HAND — Handicapped student Sam Provence gets a helping hand from one of his friends while heading to a class. Provence, president of the Handi-

capped Students Association, was instrumental in getting specially-designed concrete ramps to make wheelchair travel easier.