

Letters to the Editor

HANDICAPPED

Dear Sir,

In the fall of 1968 the Handicapped Students Association of the University at Arlington was formed to provide for the particular needs of the handicapped students on our campus.

Often a handicapped person avoids contacts with other persons for fear, perhaps, that he may make himself more conspicuous by such associations. To some a handicap is as disturbing as a case of freckles.

to others it is a curse one lives with.

We believe it is the function of our organization to present reality: To accept the fact that as handicapped individuals, we are conspicuous, as are any people who must exert special effort to progress: but, through unity and deliberate planning by those most deeply affected, the students themselves, the obstacles incurred in obtaining a higher education can be minimized and one can get on with the business of getting an education.

We do not endorse pessimism. We realize we are handicapped: but, by viewing things in their proper light, we see that we are not doomed. There are things that we cannot do, which require that we ask others to do them for us, but there is no shame in asking. It is the gift of man to be able to do things for one another.

There is little consolation in

conceding that there are "others worse off than we are." Each person must evaluate for himself how much he can do, and wants to do. If he has the capacity to create goals, then he has the potential to see ways to attain those goals.

It is the purpose of HSA to help achieve those goals by offering first-hand experience gained by members of our organization. Every student's greatest concern should be the achieving of best results from his studies. It is our hope that HSA can help give every student a chance to show his worth by offering personal and physical assistance as well as financial guidance.

We are proud that UTA has the only campus organization in the state of Texas that devotes itself to expanding the educational goals of the handicapped student.

Don Rodriguez
President, HSA