



FACING OBSTACLES — Ever have to reach up for a drink of water, or find that an establishment's rest room facilities are inadequate for the purposes needed? Members of the Handicapped Students Association have, and they feel it's about time for a transition. They have submitted a list of seven requests to the administration for changes which would make campus life bearable. —staff photo

Obstacles crippling

Handicapped hazards vary

by pam pirtle

An organization of handicapped students has presented the administration with a list of seven special needs concerning campus facilities.

The Handicapped Students Association, seeking to organize approximately 110 handicapped students here, is requesting:

- More ramp facilities — students complain of inadequate and sometimes unsafe access ramps to campus buildings.
- Special restroom accommodations — the association is requesting a minimum of five special restrooms designed for students in wheelchairs.
- Expanded parking spaces — students would like five to seven smaller, more convenient areas scattered across campus.
- Special access doors on major buildings — disabled students complain of doors which close automatically, creating hazards.
- Lower water fountains and telephones — designed for students in wheelchairs.
- Electronic sensors-beams placed along major routes which would create a beeping sound to aid blind students.

"In addition we would like to sponsor an educational program designed to improve the image of the physically handicapped student," said Sam Prov-

ence, graduate history student and group spokesman. "We would like to give the average student an insight into the handicapped person's world.

"A great deal of myth exists about the handicapped person," he added. "Such shows as 'Cannon' and 'Ironside' don't help the situation. The stereotypes must be broken."

Provence said sometimes handicapped students themselves tend to work against their common interest.

"We need more active members to carry out these programs. Many students must overcome the psychological problem of not wanting to associate with each other."

In responding to the requests, Dean of Student Life Wayne Duke said, "The administration is aware and concerned with the handicapped students' problems. Their demands are reasonable and we are doing everything possible allowing for the availability of funds."

A response to the problems listed by the organization is currently being considered by the administration, Duke added. He indicated a major problem would be a source of funds.

The Handicapped Students Association will meet at 1 p.m. Monday. Information can be obtained from Jim Doyle Jr. at 261-1294.

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