

Handicapped seek elevation of priority

by **laura allen**

Requests for campus improvements presented by the Handicapped Students Association have begun producing results, but members feel the matter still deserves a higher priority.

Two changes, lowering one water fountain and one telephone in the SUB, were made about three weeks ago. A survey also is underway to determine the parking needs of handicapped students.

The improvements are in response to a list of seven needs concerning campus facilities submitted to the administration by the organization in September.

"I feel that it (list of needs) should be given a higher priority than what

it's been given so far," Sam Provence, spokesman for the group, told the Short-horn.

Provence said a representative of the handicapped students has met with Wayne Duke, dean of student life, and Bob Price, vice president for business affairs, at least once a week for the last two months "to help prompt the administration into taking action to implement the seven points."

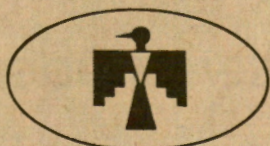
Improvements requested include more ramp facilities, special restroom accommodations, expanded parking facilities, lower water fountains and telephones and electronic sensors beams located along major routes to aid blind students.

In December 1968, handicapped students asked for ramp facilities, which were not built until July 1970, Provence said.

"I feel that the implementations will be made. It's just a matter of what consideration they (administration) give the projects and what priority they get. I hope we don't have to wait a year and a half before the projects get installed."

He said the administration indicated it would cost \$900,000 to entirely convert the campus to meet the needs of handicapped students. Provence, however, said the changes requested could be made for a maximum of \$2,000 using school maintenance personnel.

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