

President commends student

Senior sponsors cerebral palsy group

by melissa hall

Carol Heit got a letter from President Richard Nixon the other day.

It was a thrill, but then Ms. Heit receives thrills every day. She is a committed person.

She is the adult sponsor for Concerned Youth for Cerebral Palsy (CYCP). President Nixon heard about her through an article in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram last December.

A senior special education major, Ms. Heit became interested in cerebral palsy through her son, Al, 17, who has the disease.

"I saw from the inside that there was no regular social life. There is a complete void in their life that can not be filled by parents," said Ms. Heit.

With her daughter, Carol, 16, they began CYCP, according to Ms. Heit, to see if they couldn't help fill that void.

Open to youth, ages 13-25, CYCP of Tarrant County has been sponsored by Ms. Heit and her husband since its formation in 1972.

"Right from the first we were financially independent and practically off the ground," said Ms. Heit.

"My daughter, Carol Reyes, a student at Arlington Heights High School, had worked in Teens Aid the Retarded (TARS) for three years."

CYCP is a different sort of program and mainly involves itself in helping victims of cerebral palsy enjoy life, she said.

The association holds weiner roasts, talent shows and other social events. One achievement, a bowling team, recently returned from league competition in Houston.

"We were encouraged by the education department," she said, "and before we knew it, Bill Reeves, head of the Men's PE department had offered his services as a bowling coach."

Later, Coach Jim Garrett offered his help and CYCP found that UTA cared, said Ms. Heit.

"March 9 the Physical Education Majors and Minors Club (PEMM) set up and carried off a tournament for us. It was the first time they had ever worked with the handicapped," she said. "It thrilled CYCP to associate with col-

lege students and widened the way for more involvement."

What really thrills Carol Heit is the way "UTA works hand in glove with us."

Stressing that all members of CYCP have a normal IQ, Ms. Heit said that there has been a tremendous growth in the club.

"I'm very interested in forming a college group on campus. This is one of our goals for the near future," she said.

Interested persons may contact Ms. Heit at 738-0944 in Fort Worth.

"Cerebral palsy victims are not all in wheel chairs," said Ms. Heit, "and even if some are — aren't we all handicapped to some extent?"



HELPING HAND — Carol Heit helps handicapped people learn to bowl. Ms. Heit is the adult sponsor for Concerned Youth for Cerebral Palsy, an organization which "involves itself with helping victims of cerebral palsy enjoy life."