

# Barriers going for handicapped

Work continues on modifying campus architectural barriers to assist handicapped students.

Telephones have been lowered and new wheelchair-level drinking fountains have been installed. Ramps make it easy to enter most buildings while still others are under construction.

"All the new buildings comply with Senate Bill 111 designed to make it easier for handicapped students to get around," explained Everette Strahan, physical plant director. "But now we're completing work on older buildings, renovating them for the handicapped."

Brazos House, a four-story residence hall, is being fitted with wider doors so that wheelchairs can pass through easily. Ramps are also being built at one entrance, making four double rooms accessible.

"We've also considered little things," said Strahan. "like putting room number plaques at eye level and identifying the letters so a blind person can feel them and know exactly where he is."

The university is taking bids now for relighting a large parking lot so it will be safer for all students, particularly handicapped.

Kris Kirkpatrick, assistant dean of student life, has been assigned to work with a university committee on seeking methods of helping the handicapped.

This fall the committee will pre-register mobility impaired students. With advice from consultants from the Texas Vocational Rehabilitation Commission and the Texas Commission for the Blind, the committee is looking into other means of assistance.

A brochure has been printed with maps showing the location of handicapped parking areas, restroom facilities, water fountains and other aids.

More information is available from the Student Life Office, ext. 3361.