

Top priority to handicapped

In response to an article of Feb. 15 in the Shorthorn regarding "Handicapped Request Funds," I am writing this letter on behalf of the handicapped students of UTA.

While I have little knowledge of fund allocations to improve the facilities for the handicapped or to build a luxurious mall on campus, it appears the administration is under the impression such a mall would be an irresistible temptation for prospective new students and faculty members.

What about the handicapped students? Although I am not handicapped myself, the barriers these people must overcome are apparent to anyone who is on campus daily.

I am sure these students will enjoy immensely the new mall, although the thought entered my mind they might enjoy accessible telephones, water fountains, restrooms and elevators much more than a mall which will probably have many barriers built into it.

Personally, I would be more impressed with a school whose first priority was to create a campus where everyone was afforded easy access to all facilities rather than one which has absolutely no educational advantages.

Yes, Ms. Kirkpatrick, I am sure priorities have had to be set as "funds are tight now." However, it appears to be the improvement of facilities for handicapped students would be much more practical, but construction goes on daily for the UTA campus mind-expanding mall.

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government