

# Quadriplegic overcoming barriers



JANICE WEBB

By Sherry Hamilton

Education, determination and a sense of independence have given Janice Webb a chance to overcome physical and attitudinal barriers.

Janice, 23, was involved in a car accident a year ago which left her a quadriplegic. Returning to campus, she finds that "education can be a constant 24-hour job, with very little time to spare."

"Since my accident, education is more vital," she added. "It's something that I have to go through because jobs aren't easy to get nowadays anyway, whether you're handicapped or not.

"But the problems that I have encountered so far have been very few. When I have difficulties in the classroom, people are always willing to help me out." Problems range from "dropping things to opening doors, sometimes."

She notes that her education will benefit both her husband and herself.

An accounting major, Janice plans to keep her husband's books when he starts his own business.

"The drive that keeps me going is knowing that I have to do it, really, and I just take a day at a time and try to get as much done as I can.

"If I don't get it all done, there's always another day. Some days I accomplish a lot; some days I don't. Some days I don't get anything done — not because I'm not trying, but I run out of time."

She credits the event that has restricted her physical activity with giving her life a new direction. "If it hadn't been for my accident, I might not have continued my education."

She believes that the more independent a person can become, the better off he will be.

"I don't want to rely on my family for support, because it wouldn't be fair to them or me. Even before my accident, I was independent. I've always planned to support myself."