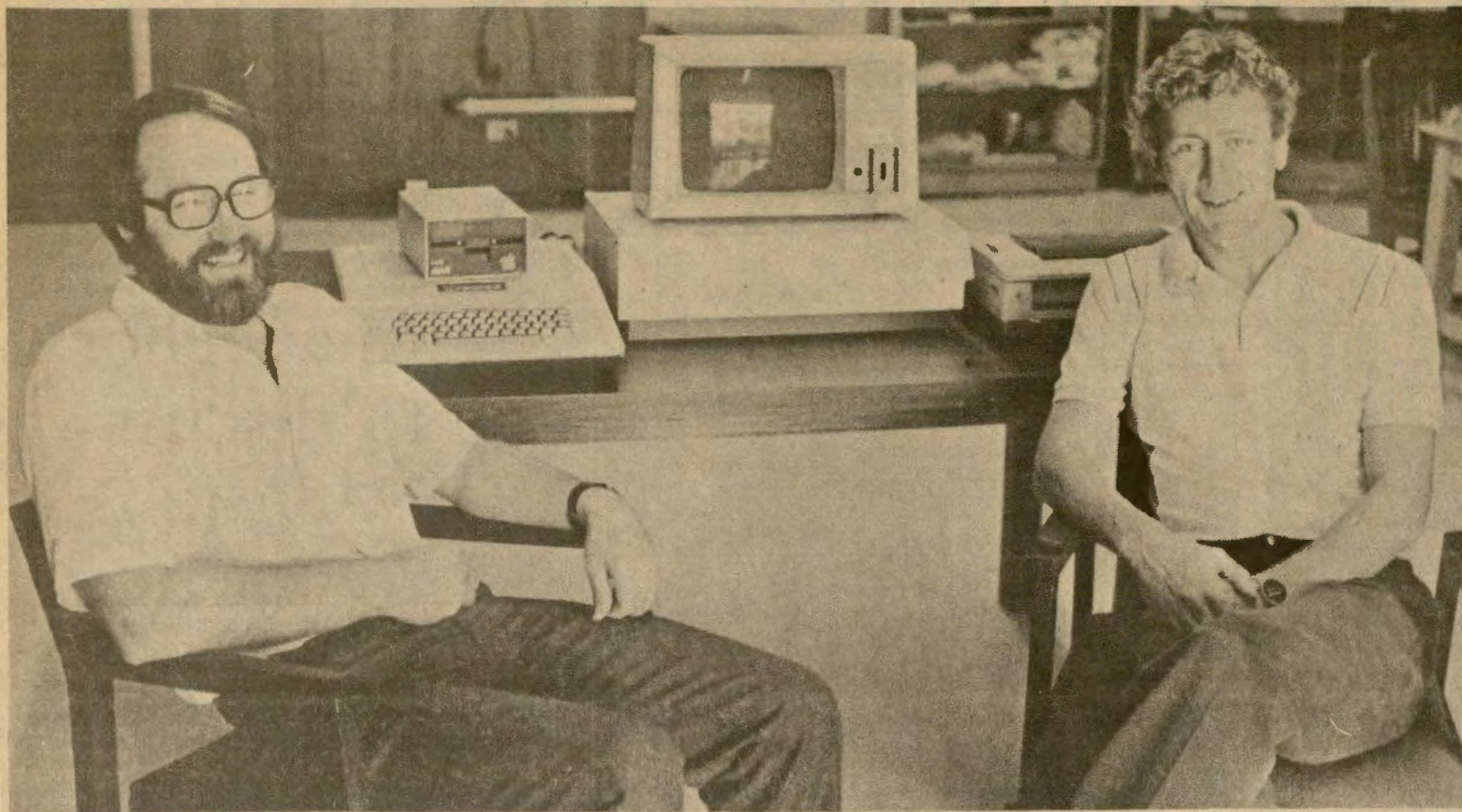


ON CAMPUS



SHORTHORN: Jay Racz

Associate Professor Richard Schoech and research assistant Ken Bastin-Miller, right, are studying ways technology can help the disabled live independently.

Enrichment hour

American Production and Inventory Control Society, speaker Jack Youngkin, consultant to Price Waterhouse, "Implementing Zero Inventory in a Job Shop Environment," noon-1:30 p.m., Engineering 402

Dunsworth Lecture Series, sponsored by Pi Mu Epsilon, speaker Dr. Dan Levine, UTA math department, "How to Make Up Your Mind," 12:15 p.m., Nursing 110

Gymnastics Club, meeting, noon, Activities Building upstairs lounge

Pi Sigma Alpha, Political Science Society, meeting, noon, University Hall 457

SAB/Forums, brown bag lunch, focus on incest, "Something About Amelia," 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., UC Viewroom

Student Congress, speaker U.T. Systems Chancellor, noon, Texas Hall

Zeta Phi Eta, Professional Fraternity for Communication Arts and Sciences, speaker Jay Jones, noon; Fine Arts 122

Happenings

WEDNESDAY

Technology assists disabled

by Donna Gooch

Shorthorn Staff

Technology and disabilities aren't as far apart as they may seem. In fact, the two fit together very well, according to social work Assistant Professor Dick Schoech.

To determine the scope and sources of new technology such as voice synthesizers, improved electric wheelchairs and computers, Dr. Schoech and Canadian research associate Ken Bastin-Millar sent 1,200 surveys to Texas organizations serving the developmentally disabled and interviewed specialists working with the technology.

"The key is to match the technology devices to each client, to find the experts who are skilled in that area who have the resources and know what's best,"

The \$35,000 study, funded by the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, showed that individuals with mental retardation, spinal cord or brain injuries, cerebral palsy, hearing or speech impairments or learning disabilities are gaining

help through a variety of communication and mobility aids.

But finding a qualified person to match the technology with the user is the key, Schoech said. For example, parents who want to buy an adaptive device for their disabled child need information on cost, instruction, how fast the child will outgrow the equipment and if used equipment is available.

Schoech and Bastin-Millar finished the research in August, and after almost a year spent gathering information, they weren't content to let it lie dormant. The Texas Rehabilitation Commission, for instance, was interested in using the research results.

"About halfway through the first grant we found there were a lot of people who wanted information but didn't know who to go to," Schoech said. "It was a matter of bringing people together who were out there with the technology with those who needed the services."