

Handicapped seek funds

Facilities still needed

by claudia perkins

A member of the Handicapped Students Association, Jim Hayes, will be lobbying in Austin during the current session of the legislature for the funding of a bill favoring his group.

The bill says all architectural barriers at institutions such as UTA must be alleviated by 1980. The law, Act. 678G, was passed in the past legislature.

"But the legislature has failed to pass a bill which would fund institutions, so they must do it at their own expense, straining the budget at some schools," Hayes said.

From \$8,000 to \$10,000 has been allocated here to remodel facilities to aid the handicapped.

"We are very pleased with the results

received so far," said Sam Provence, president of the Handicapped Students Association here. "Some of the proposed improvements have already been implemented and we hope the other points will soon follow.

"Also we feel all has been done that can be done with the limited amount of money in the current administration's budget. There are many improvements that can be made if the necessary funds were available."

A petition, circulated last month, collected 2,200 names of persons who supported improved facilities. Currently a brochure is being drafted for incoming handicapped students. A mini-preregistration program for the handicapped also is planned.

Handicapped students now may park in any lot other than those designated for faculty.

Other improvements which have partly been carried out are the lowering of water fountains and telephones.

The only item not agreed upon is the installation of sensor devices in buildings to aid blind students.

Provence said the Texas Commission for the Blind is seeking funds for the proposal.

Hayes said UTA can become "one of the foremost campuses as far as facilities for the handicapped are concerned.

"Because of UTA's modern architecture, we are many years ahead of other schools," said Hayes. "I consider this quite an accomplishment."