

THE BATTALION

Grad student designs wheelchair run by voice

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Helping the helpless . . . an A&M student from Abilene is doing just that.

David F. Edwards, a 23-year-old graduate student of electrical engineering, designed and built the electronic controls on a wheelchair which will allow to totally paralyzed persons a means of self-propelled locomotion by using their voices to operate the wheelchair.

Dr. Paul H. Newell, associate

dean of the College of Engineering, originated the idea. However, on the first design, the quadruplegic was required to hit a specific note to make the chair move.

The new chair is essentially the same, except the patient may hum anywhere in a range of notes. "This makes the operation of the chair much easier," Edwards said. "The lowest range causes the chair to turn left. As the patient

hums up the musical scale, the chair will move forward and left, then forward, forward and right and then right. The highest range will cause the chair to back up," Edwards, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex H. Edwards, 3418 South 27th Street, Abilene, said.

Edwards continued. "For example, we could use this method of control to help the patient adjust his bed, turn the pages in a book or turn on a television set—allowing him more and more independence."

"A patient might even be able to feed himself, if the controls were attached to an artificial limb," Edwards said. He was assisted by his graduate advisor, Dr. V. Thomas Rhyne, associate professor of electrical engineering, and Dr. Arthur Sherwood, assistant professor of bio-engineering.

Edwards hopes to complete his master's degree in August and enter the field of computer design.

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Everyone invited to join Aggie Christian Fellowship

By REBECCA L. McKEE
 Just what is a Christian? Many people have found the answer to this question with the help of the Aggie Christian Fellowship.

Although it has been recognized officially by the university for only a year, the Aggie Christian Fellowship was unofficially recognized by Dean James Hannigan for about six years, according to Bill Priebe, a member of the fellowship.

Priebe said in a recent interview, "The main purpose of Aggie Christian Fellowship is to give people the information by which they can learn about Jesus Christ. And the second purpose is to provide fellowship for Christians by which they can be built up in the faith."

The organization has every major religion represented in its membership.

The fellowship is a member of an international organization called the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students. The nation-

al chapter is called Intervarsity Christian Fellowship of the U.S.

"One of the things we regret is we have had an awfully hard time reaching the foreign student and the black student. We haven't been able to establish the feeling we would like to establish," Priebe said.

"It has been difficult to contact these groups because the club was originally all Anglo men, and if you want to contact foreign students and blacks, you need to have responsible foreign and black people in the organization to help bring others in."

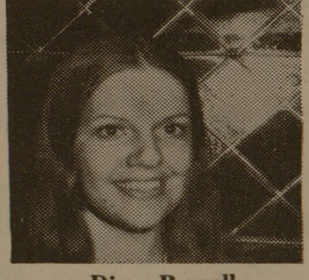
The Aggie Christian Fellowship recently sponsored a "seminar," which was aimed specifically at the female in an attempt to let her know the club was for women as well as men.

Priebe said anyone interested in becoming active in Aggie Christian Fellowship can go to the All Faiths Chapel any night at 7 or call the fellowship office at 846-0138.



David F. Edwards, a graduate electrical engineering student, explains to Sue Roemer of College Station how the hum of his voice propels the new wheelchair designed by him.

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Diane Parnell

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