

Disabled given hope

By KAREN SMITH

"I can walk again," said a patient from the Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center. Despite two knee operations, that patient was unable to walk or go to work. He received treatment at the Center which consisted of therapy and traction and now he is able to walk and work again.

For 19 years the Rehabilitation Center in Bryan, has been giving help to the handicapped and disabled, providing physical, occupational and speech therapy. Audiology and counseling are other services provided by the center.

Under the audiology program, the patient's hearing problem is evaluated. If a hearing aid is needed the Center fits the aid and orders it for the patient. If an aid will not help, lip reading or sign language is

taught to the patient.

Occupational therapy utilizes activities such as crafts and writing. Whirlpool baths, deep heating and strengthening exercises are used in physical therapy programs.

Counseling is also provided for patients who have emotional problems resulting from a physical or mental handicap.

Before a patient can begin occupational or physical therapy he or she must be referred to the center by a physician because the therapists aren't qualified to make medical diagnosis, said Jim Thompson, director of the Center. A doctor's referral isn't necessary for speech therapy or audiology.

There are 145 patients receiving help from the clinic, Thompson said.

"I'm glad that there is a place like the Rehabilitation Center," one woman said.

"It has really helped me to use my hands again. They were so crippled by arthritis."

Students from Texas A&M University used to go to the Center to receive treatments for athletic injuries or tendon, but now the hospital on campus has a therapy division which is more convenient for them, Thompson said.

A&M students who are majoring in sociology and therapy work can do voluntary service at the center. The Center is supported by the United Fund, Easter Seal Societies, the March of Dimes and the Shrine. These funds enable the Center to charge minimal fees, not to charge patients who need help but who can't afford it.

People of all ages disabled from strokes, birth defects or accidents can receive therapy at the Center.

Wheelchair awareness day

Students can experience difficulties of the handicapped

A wheelchair basketball game will highlight Wheelchair Awareness Day April 22. The evening game will be played in DeWare fieldhouse.

Wheelchair Awareness Day is sponsored by Students Concerned for the Handicapped, a campus organization, and the Rehabilitation Engineering Center of Houston.

About 60 wheelchairs, loaned by local rental agencies and the Veterans Administration in Houston, will be available for the use of interested students.

"People can sign for a chair, then go about their daily routine," said Rick Baldwin, president of Students Concerned for the Handicapped. By attending all their classes in a wheelchair, students can experience first-hand the problems which the handicapped must face in getting around the campus. After returning the wheelchair, students will be asked to describe any problems they have had, Baldwin said. He is ex-

pecting at least 300 people to test their mobility in a wheelchair.

The basketball game will feature two teams from a national wheelchair basketball league, the Dallas Raiders and the Houston Easyriders. The winner will then play members of the Texas A&M basketball team.

The reason for bringing the wheelchair basketball game to A&M is so the audience can see what people can do with their handicaps, Baldwin said.

"Our main purpose is to bring handicapped people into the light, and make others more aware of them as people," he said.

The Students Concerned for the Handicapped attempt to improve the physical and psychological atmosphere in the community for handicapped people, Baldwin said. By working with campus planners they have been instrumental in making the A&M campus much more

accessible to wheelchairs. Now they are taking a survey of Bryan and College Station schools concerning their accessibility to wheelchairs. The results will be presented to the school boards.

The main problem which the Students Concerned for the Handicapped face, he said, is that people aren't aware of the handicapped and their problems. By having such activities as Wheelchair Awareness day and the wheelchair basketball game they hope to make the handicapped more accepted for what they are — people.

State authorities hope to vaccinate 10 million

Associated Press
AUSTIN, Tex. — State health authorities hope 10 million Texans can be given a vaccine to protect them against a feared epidemic of swine influenza next fall.

To vaccinate maybe 1 million Texans in three months is really a tremendous task but we are hopeful it can be done," Dr. Fratis Duff, director of the Texas Department of Health Resources, told a news conference Monday.

Duff said pharmaceutical manufacturers are making the vaccine

now and they hope to have enough for nationwide distribution next September. Congress is considering a bill that would appropriate \$135 million for the manufacture and distribution of the vaccine.

Then it is our goal to have it distributed and administered by the

end of November. It will require all the resources of state and local, public and private health officials to do the job," Duff said.

Private physicians would be expected to administer the vaccine to their patients on request.

Moral gap doesn't void black rights

Despite a moral gap between blacks and whites, most whites do believe in equality for all, including the long-oppressed blacks, said Dr. August Meier in a Black Awareness presentation last night.

Meier, a historian from Kent State University, directed his speech to the meaning of the Declaration of Independence for Afro-Americans. He quoted such famous black Americans as Martin Luther King, Jr., Fredrick Douglas, and Dubois who upheld the idea that all men are created equal.

In the late 1700's "only a handful of whites saw the Declaration's principles applied literally to blacks and whites," Meier said. And blacks continued to have trouble getting their unalienable rights even after their emancipation in 1863.

They asked state legislatures to strike the word "white" from certain laws, he said. They based their stand on the Declaration of Independence. In Texas blacks fought the "white primaries" for 50 years.

Meier said the problem that still exists is the failure of white Americans to live up to their promises.

He said the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has made the most headway for the rights of blacks. The NAACP made its greatest achievements during the Depression and World War II, paving the way for the 1950s and '60s, he said.

Meier said the Black Panthers were overrated, and they were "creatures of the ramparts in the Communist party." He noted that the Panthers have done little to further the rights of blacks.

He concluded with a quote from Vernon Jordan saying, "The Declaration has just become another piece of paper."

—Ce Cowart

Carter, Ford, Jackson take primary wins

Associated Press

Jimmy Carter, in Wisconsin, and Henry M. Jackson, in New York, gained primary victories last night.

President Ford won his sixth Republican primary, winning easily over challenger Ronald Reagan in Wisconsin.

Tuesday's two primary elections point to a three-way race in the next big Democratic test, for Pennsylvania's 178 delegates on April 27.

The two Tuesday primaries put Ford's nationwide delegate count at 251 of the 1,130 it would take to win nomination. Reagan had 84.

Carter led the Democrats with a total of 239 delegates. Jackson had 180, Udall 118, Wallace 104. The uncommitted Democratic column now adds up to 148, with another 85 pledged to favorite son candidates. It will take 1,505 Democratic convention votes to choose a nominee.

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