

Team studies adaptive vans for quadraplegics to drive

There are approximately 39,000 quadraplegics in the United States, with no use of their legs and only limited use of their hands. Only about 10 per cent are employed and very few can enjoy even the simplest pleasures of life.

The joy of sightseeing, recreation or even shopping is denied them because they have no means of independent transportation.

Texas A&M University and Baylor College of Medicine have formed a team of researchers to test and evaluate automotive equipment designed for such persons.

This work is being continued through a \$160,653 grant from the Veterans Administration to "test and evaluate commercially available automotive adaptive equipment designed for use by disabled drivers and to develop additional equipment for use by quadraplegics," explained the principal investigator, Dr. Make McDermott, Jr. of A&M's industrial engineering department.

He is joined by Dr. Lewis A. Cavitt of Baylor College of Medicine and Rodger J. Koppa of A&M's Texas Transportation Institute, along with task leader Dr. Dean D. Duncan in heading a group

that is now entering its fifth year of work in this area.

"The V.A. needs to insure that the adaptive equipment allows the disabled driver to operate his vehicle so that he is safe and isn't a threat to others," pointed out Koppa. "Also they need the assurance that the equipment meets minimum standards of safety and quality."

"Since the V.A. is the major purchaser of this kind of gear, normally the standards it sets will tend to be adopted by industry," McDermott said.

It took adapted vans to the Astrodome in Houston where a select group of quadraplegics drove them and volunteered hints and criticisms on their effectiveness.

They provide evaluations allowing the V.A. to write specifications for the devices and help manufacturers develop their equipment once the evaluations are written.

"For instance, a quadraplegic with limited use of his hands may only be able to exert one pound of force, whereas standard power steering may require three or four pounds," said Duncan. "Possibly a servo mechanism, controlled by a small joy stick, could be substituted for a conventional wheel. This would alter the amount, type and force of movement required to drive in the quadraplegics favor."

The team is evaluating a number of different designs from several manufacturers. But basically most quadraplegics require a van with a raised roof (so that in a wheelchair, they can move around inside normally), modified hand controls, a lift for movement from the ground into the van and a wheelchair restraint to lock the chair into place in the driver's position.

McDermott, Koppa and Duncan stress that their evaluations are for the V.A. only. They advise that anyone who can transfer to a conventional seat auto should do so. They say that a person is really taking a risk driving in a wheelchair.

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Student services set guidelines for advertising on bulletin boards

New advertising and publicity guidelines are in effect this semester for bulletin boards in residence halls, the Memorial Student Center and the kiosks on Military Walk.

Student services initiated the change because much of the advertising on campus is outdated or does not follow university regulations.

The new guidelines were set up by a committee of four staff mem-

bers and three students appointed by Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services.

Only recognized campus organizations, university offices, students, faculty and staff advertising personal items will be allowed to use posting areas.

All advertising and publicity material posted may be no larger than 22 by 28 inches. A maximum of one poster per bulletin board and four per kiosk of each advertisement or publicity notice will be allowed.

Each poster must carry the name of the organization or individual and a visible date of posting. Posting periods may not exceed three weeks.

Materials printed in a foreign lan-

guage must have the name of the organization and the posting date in English.

Materials must be attached so as not to deface or destroy the posting surface.

Other advertising should not be concealed and there should be no overlapping of material.

Advertising must be posted on authorized locations only.

Additional restrictions such as stamped approval for individual posters and publicity may be imposed by a building proctor or a residence hall council.

To help enforce the new regulations, a campus honor sorority has volunteered to police the areas.

— Esther Cortez

Bulletin board

- FRIDAY**
Sports Car Club, Scandia II Apt. 8 p.m.
Shorin Ryu Karate Club, G. Roll White 266, 5 p.m.
Muslim Student Association, Miller 510, 7 p.m.
- SATURDAY**
India Association, Movie: "Jangar" Oceanography 112, 7 p.m.
- SUNDAY**
Chess Committee, MSC 206, 6 p.m.
- MONDAY**
Alpha Zeta, Rudder 601, 7:30 a.m.
Dance Arts Society, Ballet, G. Rollie White 266, 7:30 p.m.
Czech Club, Rudder 308, 8 p.m.
Peace Corps Vista, MSC (available to talk to interested students), 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- TUESDAY**
Peace Corps Vista, MSC (available to talk to interested students), 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
"French With A Smile," Conversation Hour in French, MSC Cafeteria, 12 noon.
Agricultural Economics Club, Plant Sciences 113, 7:30 p.m.

Top of the News

Campus

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL team will host Wharton Junior College at 8 p.m. today in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The two losses to Texas and Sam Houston even the team's record at 8-8.

WOMEN IN COMMUNICATIONS, a national professional journalism society, is forming a chapter at Texas A&M University. Student members should have six hours of journalism courses, with a journalism GPR of 2.7 and an overall GPR of 2.5. Professional members should have four years experience in communications. A general meeting will be held Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Reed McDonald 003.

AGGIE PLAYERS' PRODUCTION of "Aesop's Fables" will be presented Feb. 14-19. Tickets, available at the Rudder Center box office Monday, will be \$1.75 for Texas A&M University students and \$2.75 for non-students. A child's admission will be \$1.

DIAMOND SHAMROCK CORP. presented \$5,000 in unrestricted grants to Texas A&M University officials Wednesday afternoon. Half the amount was awarded in the field of chemical engineering and half in petroleum engineering.

Texas

AN EPIDEMIC of highly contagious red measles is in an eastern section of Harris County, said health officials yesterday. The disease, which usually infects children, was first detected in Baytown high schools before Christmas. Now, however, there are at least 70 affected children of all ages.

SOME GAS SUPPLIERS in Texas are hesitant to become involved in natural gas to the Northwest and to the East. Lone Star Gas Co., the biggest Texas utility, yesterday said it would provide natural gas if the President ordered it to. Houston Gas Pipe Line Co. and Tenneco Inc., also have not made any preparations to participate in the national emergency energy program. A spokesman for Lone Star Gas Co. said, "If it is ordered, then we will do it. . . . But realistically speaking, the only gas we have to ship to the East is gas we'd have to take from our customers. I don't believe anybody has any spare gas. No one has spare gas in a cold winter."

JUDGE MAX M. ROGERS of Huntsville was reappointed to a new term as presiding judge of the 2nd administrative judicial district. Gov. Dolph Briscoe reappointed Rogers

yesterday to the new position, which will expire Feb. 6, 1981.

THE BIRDS ARE DRUNK in West Texas this year, say wildlife biologists, because the cold winter is producing a natural winery in the area. Wild berries ripen, freeze, thaw and ferment causing birds that eat them to become a little bit intoxicated. An abundant crop of juniper and mountain cedar berries are attracting more of the migratory robins and cedar waxwings than normal, said a wildlife biologist with the Soil Conservation Service.

ton said yesterday the FBI should help the Commerce Department enforce the ban.

PATRICIA HEARST'S ABDUCTION, which happened three years ago today, will be the subject of a museum-style exhibit, planned to mark the anniversary of her kidnapping by the terrorist Symbionese Liberation Army.

World

A TANTALIZING PEEK at the greatest private art collection in the world in trust for the people, was given to Queen Elizabeth's subjects today as part of a Silver Jubilee display of more of the historic and artistic masterpieces the rulers of Britain have been gathering for nearly five centuries.

AN UPRISING against Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiry, proved to be unsuccessful early Wednesday in Juba, and was part of a plot to bring chaos to Sudan's southern provinces, a Sudanese news agency said yesterday. An American missionary pilot died in the fighting. The revolt, the second in a year, was trying to restore a degree of political stability to the Sudan, a country wracked by political upheaval since it gained independence from Egypt 21 years ago.

National

ARIZONA WAS BOMBED yesterday by the Nevada Air National Guard. An Air Guard F10 fighter bomber taking part in war games accidentally dropped its load of four 500-pound bombs 40 miles north of Kingman during a refueling exercise, the headquarters at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., reported. The bombs landed in an uninhabited desert area, doing no damage.

TUNA NETTING, a practice environmentalists say kills porpoises in large numbers as it snares the tuna, has been blocked by a federal appellate court. In addition, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washing-

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Three-Day Setting Service
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Now Better Than Ever. You Will Be Pleased With These Carefully Prepared and Taste Tempting Foods. Each Daily Special Only \$1.49 Plus Tax. "Open Daily"

Dining: 11 AM to 1:30 PM — 4:30 PM to 7 PM

<p>MONDAY EVENING SPECIAL Salisbury Steak with Mushroom Gravy Whipped Potatoes Your Choice of One Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea</p>	<p>TUESDAY EVENING SPECIAL Mexican Fiesta Dinner Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w/chili Mexican Rice Patio Style Pinto Beans Tostadas Coffee or Tea One Corn Bread and Butter</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL Chicken Fried Beef Steak w/cream Gravy Whipped Potatoes and Choice of one other Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea</p>
<p>THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee</p>		
<p>FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>SATURDAY NOON AND EVENING SPECIAL "Yankee Pot Roast Texas Style" Tossed Salad Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p>SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON AND EVENING ROAST TURKEY DINNER Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread - Butter - Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable</p>

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