

Local/State

Disease doesn't stop prof

By PHYLLIS HENDERSON

Unlike most college professors, Bonnie Browne neither walks, bikes nor drives a car to class. She operates a special motorized scooter, because she has multiple sclerosis.

"I call it my machine," says Browne, a political science professor at Texas A&M University. "The chair has made me much more mobile."

Browne's machine recommended by her doctor resembles a child's scooter with a chair attached at the back. It also has a basket to hold books and other materials.

Although the scooter has increased her mobility, Browne is not confined to it. She said she can walk with the aid of a cane but needs the wall for guidance.

Browne, a slender woman of 35 talks comfortably about her battle against the disease which attacks the central nervous system, usually between the ages of 20 and 40.

The brown-haired New York native said she tells her students about her handicap the first day of class. "Students tend to be uncomfortable about it at first," Browne said, "but I make jokes about it."

Browne said she has had minor symptoms such as dizziness and weakness since 1973, but was first

diagnosed in February 1979.

While working toward her doctorate at the University of Georgia, she said the symptoms became more severe. "The assumption was that I was working too hard," she said.

But the onset of noticeable symptoms, such as difficulty in walking, happened quickly, Browne said, and gave little time for anyone to adjust.

"I don't think the people in the department were really aware that it was getting more serious, and I think there was a sense of shock in the department when I was hospitalized," said Browne, who came to Texas A&M in 1977.

"My colleagues were tremendously supportive," she said. They sent cards and took over her classes during her two-week hospital stay.

She said she hasn't missed a class because of her illness since.

"It helps to have a profession where reading is important," she said, "because fatigue is a serious problem."

To combat this, Browne relaxes in a lawn chair in her office while she reads over the material for her classes.

"I really enjoy teaching," she said. "I get a lot of positive benefit, too. I get mentally up when I walk into the classroom."

Although fatigue and transportation are problems, Browne has maintained an active life both at Texas A&M and away from it.

Browne is an undergraduate advisor and is advisor to the political science honor society. She is also on the University Honors Program Committee and the search committee for the College of Liberal Arts' associate dean of student affairs.

Browne is also involved in community projects. She was appointed by the Brazos County Development Council to the Central Texas Health System Agency, which reviews new proposals for health centers in the area.

Because of the uncertainty of multiple sclerosis, Browne said, "You could be totally disabled tomorrow, or you could have a total remission tomorrow."

Fortunately, her condition has been stable the last six months and the odds are against her becoming totally disabled.

Browne's goals include continued research into citizen participation in the area of health.

There is a tendency, Browne said, to see someone who is coping with a handicap as a stronger and better person.

"I think most people cope with what they have to cope with," she said. "That's what I'm doing."

Tank tests critical for production

United Press International FORT KNOX, Ky. — Current tests involving the new XM-1 tank, the Army's main battle tank of the future, will determine when full production can begin, according to an officer heading the review of the XM-1.

Col. Frank Day, a systems manager for the XM-1 tank project, said the current platoon-level tests at Fort Knox and battalion-level tests at Fort Hood, Texas, would determine when full production of the XM-1 can begin.

The tests are being conducted with regular assembly line models of the tank built by the Chrysler Corp. Previous tests of the tank were conducted with prototypes.



Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

Bonnie Browne, political science professor at Texas A&M University, heads for class on her "machine." Browne has multiple sclerosis and the motorized scooter makes travel between classes easier.

Court stops TRC safety regulation

United Press International AUSTIN — The Texas Railroad Commission overstepped its authority in a 1978 order requiring the Santa Fe railroad to keep weeds trimmed on each side of a Bell County grade crossing for safety, the Third Court of Civil Appeals ruled Wednesday.

The commission has only the authority granted it by the Legislature, and the Legislature has not delegated to the agency the authority to enforce railroad safety regulations concerning maintenance of grade crossings. School officials contended tall weeds and grass obscured vision at the crossing and caused a hazardous condition.

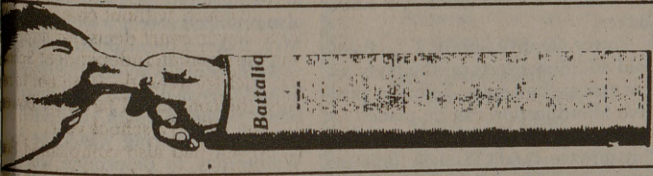
The Railroad Commission ordered the Aetehison, Topeka & Santa Fe

Railway Co. to keep the weeds and grass trimmed to no more than one foot in height in one-half mile in each direction from the crossing.

But the railroad appealed to a district court, which ruled the regulatory commission does not have the authority to issue such regulations and permanently enjoined the commission from enforcing the order.

"It may be that there should be legislation empowering the commission to regulate the maintenance of railroad rights of way some distance from crossings," the Civil Appeals Court said Wednesday in its unanimous opinion on the case.

"All would agree, however, that the creation of such authority is properly the function of the Legislature and not that of the courts."



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The Purpose of Man

Man - the Unique Creation

The highest development, the maturity, of created life is man. Throughout all the centuries no life has surpassed the human life. Physically, man is weaker than some of the animals, but this weakness is far outweighed by man's superior consciousness, including his feelings and reasoning ability. Yet man is not just the highest life among creation; he is also the unique life. Regarding all the varieties of plant and animal life that God created, he said that each one was "after its kind" or "after their kind" (Gen. 1:11, 12, 21, 24, 25, ASV). But when he came to man, "God created man in His own image" (Gen. 1:27). This is the unique and very important point concerning man.

Vessels for Expression

Why was man created in the image of God? It was in order that man might have the ability to express God. No other part of creation has this capacity because it was not created according to God's image. God's intention was that one day He, in the Person of Christ, would enter into man and be expressed through him. Romans 9:21 and 23 reveal to us that man was made as a vessel, a container. In addition, 2 Corinthians 4:7 says, "we have this treasure in earthen vessels." Here we see a basic revelation of the Bible - man is an earthen vessel to contain Christ as the treasure.

Let us use the illustration of a glove. A glove is made in the image of the hand so that the hand might enter into the glove. Likewise, we

human beings have an intellect, emotion, and will which were created according to Christ, who is the image of God (2 Cor. 4:4). But without Christ these faculties lack true meaning. Christ Himself has the highest intellect, the real emotion, and the perfect will. The faculty of our intellect may be compared to the empty thumb of a glove - Christ's intellect may be compared to the real thumb of a human hand. The real thumb needs to get into the thumb of the glove; then the two will become one. One is the appearance, the expression, while the other is the reality, the content. Likewise our capacity of love, goodness, and patience must become the container and expression of the love, goodness, and patience of Christ.

Now we can see why God created man. We are here to contain and express Christ and to be one with Him. Whatever we are, whatever we have, and whatever we can do is like an empty glove, prepared to hold all that Christ is, all that Christ has, and all that Christ can do. Everything we are by nature is inadequate because we lack the divine element. Christ Himself must enter into every part of us. Exhortations for peace and love, though given with good intentions, are of no avail because in ourselves we lack the perfect love and the real peace. Our need today is to receive the Lord and to be filled with Him.

Being Filled with Christ

Practically, how can Christ enter into our being? Romans 9 tells us that we are vessels, and Romans 10 shows us the way to fill the vessel.

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