

National

Disabled learn sex life isn't over

PARIS — Eleven handicapped people, paralyzed below the waist, sat in wheelchairs around a table and discussed how they would find joy in life if only a loved one would caress their shoulders, their backs.

In an adjoining conference hall, some 200 doctors, psychologists, sociologists and therapists from 14 countries convened the first international congress on "Handicap and Sexuality."

The United Nations declared 1981 the Year of the Handicapped to focus attention on the world's 450 million disabled. As an opener, the Institute of Sexology, opened in Paris in 1977 and patterned after the American Kinsey and Masters and Johnson clinics, organized the conference.

Hanon Servin, a blind therapist at State University of New York, told how the blind have sex education through touch or listening to therapists. Other experts spoke of the problems of teaching contraception to the deaf.

Most of the speakers focused on paraplegics, whose paralyzed lower bodies are devoid of feeling, usually as a result of auto accidents. Doctors said victims never can experience orgasm. Few males can have intercourse or father children.

There are 22 to 25 new cases per million inhabitants in the world every year," said Dr. H.J. Hachen, medical director of the rehabilitation center at the Swiss Spinal Injuries Center in Geneva.

Their average age is 24 to 27. It was not until we organized regular sessions of sexual counseling in 1970 that we became fully aware of the importance of psychological support to adjustment.

For the male young adult, sex frequently is a means to

"Sex is a part of everybody's life. The patient must understand there are many ways to be sexual." — Medical director of a Swiss rehabilitation center.

boost his ego or to get rid of tension and anxiety. These youngsters, having become paraplegic, are likely to become terribly frustrated since they firmly believe they are definitely deprived forever of virility and the word 'sex' has to be erased from their vocabulary.

"Sex is a part of everybody's life. The patient must understand there are many ways to be sexual. We speak to him not so much about lost functions but about the happiness that may be gained through diversified sexual activities such as kissing, caressing, petting."

One of several explicit therapeutic films shown at the conference depicted a young wife and her paraplegic husband gently soaping each other in the bathtub. The film obviously moved the paraplegic youths who avidly watched from their wheelchairs.

Dr. Nel Van Son-Schoones of Utrecht University in Holland told the meeting her rehabilitation program for paraplegics includes urging them to discover the erotic portions of

their upper bodies so their mates can express affection in different ways.

"It was necessary for our research paraplegics to have private rooms to do their homework," she said. "The research center is in an old monastery so in the little rooms the patients did their erotic exercises. We now plan a program for their spouses."

Since female paraplegics can bear children, their cases for years were ignored. Dr. Van Son-Schoones said that until recently, the fact that women paraplegics could not have normal sexual feelings was not thought important by male doctors. Some of the cases have happy endings.

Hachen's latest patient is an 18-year-old garage mechanic who missed a curve at night in his sportscar and crashed into a ravine. The man lay unnoticed for 10 hours with a broken spine until a helicopter rescued him.

Surgeons patched him up and "re-educated" his bladder and bowels to empty at certain times since normal urination and evacuation are not possible in a paralyzed body.

"Then he discovered he could never have sexual intercourse. When he went home, his girlfriend was reticent to be together with him, saying if he did not feel anything she would not, either. We discussed it with her and later things went very well.

"They wanted to know if he could have a baby. Through spinal injections we were able to remove sperm — possible only for a few months after paralyzation — which can be artificially inseminated into the woman.

"They are getting married next week."

Police still seeking 'bathroom bandit'

BATON ROUGE, LA — Capitol police searched Thursday for a man quickly becoming known as the "bathroom bandit" who entered women's rest rooms and peeped into the stalls at them.

Authorities said the man startled several women Thursday morning in three downtown state office buildings, including the Department of Natural Resources Building, the Education Building and the Welfare Building.

One victim, who declined to give her name, said she was embarrassed by the man.

"I could see the feet in the next stall," she said. "I went on to use the

bathroom like I had intended to do when I got there. And then the head was peeping under the stall.

"It startled me and I screamed and said 'Who's in there?' I think I must have startled the person. ... I just ran out afterward."

Capitol Police Capt. W.J. Wisner said officers received reports from several women who saw the man. Each time police went to check out one of the complaints, Wisner said, the man apparently was one step ahead of them.

Wisner said the suspect was picked up once for questioning — but "he gave us a logical explanation" that he merely took a wrong turn into the ladies' room and was released.

Want to adopt a new 5-ton fan?

DALLAS — Jerry Sanders' travel companion is 30 feet tall and weighs 5 tons. He'd like to find it a home.

Motion II, Sanders' modern steel sculpture, is a huge spiraling fan of spike-like lengths of steel that point toward the sky in an arc. The entire piece, base and all, can be broken down into six pieces and easily moved, or at least moved with comparative ease for something that

Sanders built Motion II for \$100,000 and in-kind services and supplies from private industries interested in the arts. By midsummer he hopes to have it sold. Experts have placed the value at between \$100,000 and \$100,000.

It will go on sale, Sanders said on Labor Day next September, and would present the proceeds to Muscular Dystrophy during the city's annual telethon. That contribution is the reason he started the entire enterprise that took six months just to finance and complete. "I simply wanted to create a large indoor sculpture," he said, "and at the same time see someone benefit

from its creation in a material sense as well as an aesthetic one."

Motion II was displayed in a park in Fort Worth and now is in front of Market Hall in Dallas. Sanders had wanted to take it on an eight-city tour but too many problems popped up.

"I take it apart myself, move it and re-assemble it," said Sanders, 31. "What I need is a place to put it. I'm optimistic we can move it down to Houston during the holidays, but I'm not sure we'll get everything settled.

"You have to get permission from everyone if you want to display it in a public park," he said. "There are all kinds of offices you have to go through.

"When we displayed it in Fort Worth we needed \$100,000 property damage insurance, then we needed \$300,000 in liability insurance. It's endless."

He said he has tried to get answers from several cities but frequently suffers from unreturned phone calls and bureaucracies that can take weeks to get through. From his original hope of touring eight cities, he now has cut it back to "as many as possible."

for anything...for everything...WANT ADS



THE ONE-IN-A-MILLION GRAND OPENING

December 8 thru 13

- You could be a "Millionaire for a Day" and win one day's interest on a Million Dollars!
- Have your picture taken with a Million Dollars in Cash!
- "Grow Up to Be a Millionaire" Savings Club for kids.
- Historical Currency Exhibit from the U.S. Federal Reserve.
- Armored Car Exhibit
- Win a Millionaire's vacation to Las Vegas!

And Our Special Gift to You...

Mary K Miller
in Concert
Dec. 11th, 8:00 p.m.
at Rudder Center

College Station Bank

National Association
1501 S. Texas Avenue College Station, Texas
693-1414
MEMBER FDIC

Specially for You

Pre-Christmas Sale
20% off everything in stock

Buffy's Boutique
"Your New York Connection"

4340 Carter Creek Parkway Off 28th Street
846-8788 Mon.-Sat., 10 to 6

We specialize in personalizing gifts and unique gift wrapping.
3601 E. 29th St. 846-2797

ATM AGGIES!
Douglas Jewelry

10% AGGIE DISCOUNT ON ALL MERCHANDISE WITH STUDENT ID
(Cash Only Please)
We reserve the right to limit use of this privilege.

Downtown Bryan (212 N. Main) and Culpepper Plaza

Aggie Christmas Cards and Wrapping Paper

available at
Rudder Box Office
9 a.m.-6 p.m.



Day students get their news from the Batt.