

Grad interns aid handicapped students in UNC orientation

By BEVERLY MILLS
Staff Writer

For approximately 50 handicapped students, the rambling UNC campus, with its hills, century-old buildings, and brick sidewalks, is an intimidating obstacle course.

But because of special programs and architectural changes, disabled students are finding the campus more accessible than ever before.

Graduate students Duane Anderson and Deborah Cherry, intern coordinators for disabled UNC students, have been working overtime since Aug. 19 to help orient handicapped students.

"Our major goal in helping handicapped students adjust is to discover individual problems and combat those," Anderson said. "We offer wheelchair and braille maps and information on accessible buildings. If a blind student needs a reader, or a student needs a wheelchair assistant, we help locate these persons."

Al Peloquin, architect and planner in the facilities planning office, said the University is making progress in a program to remove architectural barriers. At least 75 buildings, including Kenan Stadium, Wilson Library, classrooms and three dorms, are accessible to handicapped students.

"So far, we have spent \$330,000 in four years to make alterations in those buildings most easy to change," Peloquin said. "I would estimate there is a million dollars worth of work to be done."

The architectural changes started in January 1975 and include building ramps, widening doorways, installing elevators and modifying restrooms.

Peloquin followed guidelines in the section of the N.C. State Building Code dealing with correcting architectural barriers for the handicapped. His job is mainly concerned with renovating many of the University's older buildings.

New buildings on campus will be completely accessible.

Ruffin, Grimes and Craige dormitories have been altered to house handicapped students with mobility problems. Two women now live in Ruffin, and one man lives in Grimes.

Russell Perry, associate director of housing in charge of maintenance, said the rooms are tailor-made for the individual student. Closet rods and mirrors are lowered and the study desk is raised.

"The cost of alterations can range from \$8,000 to \$62,000, depending on what has to be done to a particular building," Peloquin said. "Each building is specific and unique."

One problem Anderson and Cherry have confronted is getting classes moved to the buildings that are accessible to students with disabilities. So far, a solution for every problem has been found.

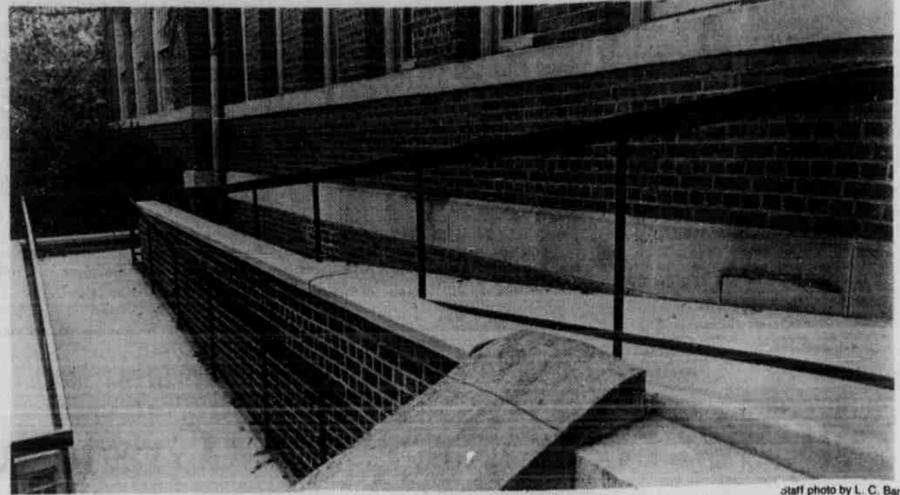
Anderson sees his role as an intern coordinator as three-fold. "My job is to be a resource person for the University community, a spokesperson for the student with a disability, and a counselor to that individual. We act as a contact with the administration in solving problems for these students."

"We have identified about 50 handicapped students so far. There are many more students with handicaps that either don't need our assistance because they are already adjusted, don't know about our services or are just used to ironing out their own problems."

"We stress that any disabled students who need our assistance with any problems should let us know."

The University is required under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to provide equal educational opportunities to handicapped students, but Anderson said heightened awareness of the needs of handicapped students actually started in 1972.

"The University is cooperating and doing what it can," Anderson said. "The program is still in infancy stages, though. I would say that the University will be completely accessible by 1985."



Many University classrooms have ramps for use by handicapped students.

Staff photo by L. C. Barbour

Since 1973, the handicapped enrollment at UNC has increased substantially. When handicapped students are deciding whether to attend UNC, they usually come to Chapel Hill and travel around the campus.

"Then these students decide for themselves if they can handle it," Anderson said. "This is a difficult campus because of its hills and the age of its buildings."

"I think handicapped students have a positive attitude toward the University," Anderson said. "These students are not unrealistic enough to expect mammoth changes. It is a

slow, expensive process."

"Handicapped students are just like people with blond hair. They're different, but they're still individuals, still people. Handicapped students are normal people with a problem, and all of us have problems."

Students needing assistance with disability problems, regardless of how small, should contact Anderson at 933-6787, Cherry at 967-3784, Peloquin at 966-1571 or the student affairs office in Steele Building.

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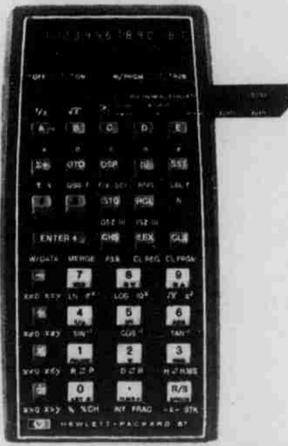
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Continued from page 1.

organized Republican effort to defeat the succession amendment. Holshouser and Sanford met with

Democratic and Republican leaders from across the state Monday in Greensboro to organize their campaign for succession.

Calling themselves the Committee for the Right to Reject Re-Elect, the leaders chose Grandfather Mountain developer Hugh Morton as their chairperson.

Morton said he would name a Democrat and a Republican as co-chairpersons of the campaign drive next week. He said he believes the campaign effort will cost \$100,000, a figure he hopes the committee will raise after it gets settled in its Raleigh office next week.

Morton and the group have retained a Winston-Salem advertising firm to prepare campaign brochures. Because Morton and his committee have raised no money yet, the firm was retained on credit, he said.

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