



Both Helen and Bryant Moore are studying toward master's degrees at University. They are blind, came to school from Atwood.

The University has a unique policy for encouraging the handicapped to come to the campus and study. All in all, this group of students is

PRETTY PLUCKY

By DICK SMITH

BY JUDGING FROM the many wooden and concrete ramps which slant through the University of Oklahoma's intersections and elaborate Gothic entrances, a casual visitor to the campus might suspect that a vast training program for future moving van employees had been inaugurated.

However, the traffic on these ramps does not consist of burly men toting grand pianos and coffee tables. Instead, they are used by the eight or ten students at O. U. who must go to classes in wheelchairs.

The fact that the University has spent large amounts of time and money in the construction of so much for so few is evidence of a unique attitude toward handicapped students—students who have a great desire to earn degrees, but who, at the same time, face exasperating obstacles at nearly every school in the country.

Construction plans which pass through the office of University Architect Richard Kuhlman must always take into account the handicapped student. "Obstacles already constructed are often hard or impossible to alleviate, but new construction," said Kuhlman, "there's our opportunity to help these people.

"A flight of stairs," he continued, "a long walk from a student parking center—so many trivial things can discourage a person with a capable mind and an incapable body. But the University's domain is the mind, and all of us—from President Cross on down—are attempting to adjust O. U.'s facilities so that none of these minds will find their physical handicaps an obstacle to studying here."

As a consequence, the floors of O. U.'s most recent buildings are linked by ramps or elevators, and whenever sidewalks are laid they invariably slant to the street level instead of dropping off in a step.

Kuhlman acknowledges that his goal of making the institution as suitable as possible for a handicapped student has yet to be reached. Like most ambitions, his is tempered by economics. But aided by imagination. The ramps over the forbidding Gothic staircases are one example. When the staircases have proved too forbidding, Kuhlman has had old freight elevators reactivated for the use of handicapped students.

The students whom Kuhlman is attempting to aid—handicapped students—might best be defined as students who are eligible to attend O. U. under the State Vocational Rehabilitation or Will Rogers Scholarship funds.

Dr. M. O. Wilson of O. U.'s psychology department is head of the University's Will Rogers Memorial Scholarship Committee and probably has known and understood the problems of handicapped students better than any other man on the campus.

He stands to help the handicapped student in a very tangible way: "Any student," said Wilson, "who has a physical handicap which is a hindrance to his studying or to his getting to and from classes in an ordinary manner—this student is eligible for funds from the Will Rogers Memorial Scholarships. In addition, this student may apply and receive aids from the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee."

Wilson points out that most people do

not realize the large variety of physical and mental handicaps for which the funds provide aid.

"Ordinarily," he said, "a person thinks of someone in a wheelchair when he speaks of a handicapped student. Actually, though, we've given funds to students whose handicaps have ranged from diabetes to stuttering. Funds have even been given to some psychotic patients after they've been adjudged normal enough to attend lectures.

"In addition to providing financial assistance to handicapped students," Wilson continued, "the committee provides scholarships to students who are interested in working with the handicapped as a vocation."

Wilson said that the committee has about \$20,000 which can be contributed to the education of the handicapped and of the people who wish to work with the handicapped vocationally.

"Usually, funds are provided for applicants by both the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee and the Will Rogers Committee," he noted. "Occasionally, however, a student will receive payments from only one of the committees. At least, both committees always confer about each case and keep the other informed as to their decisions. And an applicant for funds may apply to both by merely sending his application to one of the funds."

Asked about the amount an individual handicapped student could expect from the two funds, Wilson explained, "There's a wide variation—depending on the case in-

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the University of Denver, Colorado. He replaces J. D. Roberts, '55ed, who resigned recently to take a position on O. U.'s coaching staff.

Richard G. Bell, '57ed, Norman, is teaching junior high mathematics and history in Blanchard. Bell retired from the Navy in 1954 after 20 years of duty and took a degree in education and mathematics at the University. He has begun work on a master's degree. He and Mrs. Bell, who teaches fourth grade at Midwest City, have two children, Paul, 12, and Vivian, 11.

Miss Jamie Bell Brown, '57bs, Wewoka, has been selected to represent Oklahoma in the national Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D. C. She was selected by the Oklahoma State Society in Washington. Since graduation from the University she has been employed at the District of Columbia General Hospital bureau of maternal and child health.

Colbert Wilhite, '57bus, has been elected president of the Business Statistics Club at the University. Wilhite is a graduate student from Beaver.

Lieut. Gary T. Benton, '57ba, Grove, recently was graduated from the 15-week basic officer course at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia. Benton entered the Army in October, 1957.

MARRIAGES: Miss Sarah Carlene Rowell, '57 bus, and James Haskell Howard, '56bus, were married March 1 in the First Presbyterian Church, Ponca City. The Howards are living in Houston, Texas.

Miss Janie Marie Jones, '57ba, Tulsa, and James W. Check, '57ba, Ada, were married February 15 in Boston Avenue Methodist Church, Tulsa. The couple has established a home in Memphis where Check will enter the University of Tennessee medical school.

Miss Mary Chloe Burton, '57ba, and Gaines Loros Godfrey, '58, both of Fort Worth, Texas, were married February 22 in Robert Carr Chapel, Fort Worth.

Miss Kathryn Marie Glasgow, '57, and Robert S. Wheeler, '57eng, were married March 1 in Crown Heights Christian Church in Oklahoma City. She is from Oklahoma City, and he is from Okmulgee.

Miss Sue Ellen Rauber and Franklin D. Rahhal, '57Law, both of Weleetka, were married October 5, 1957, in Coalgate. She attended Oklahoma State University. They live in Okemah.

BIRTH: Lieut. Cameron A. Deen, '57eng, and Mrs. Deen have chosen the name Jana Beth for their daughter born January 28 at Wesley Hospital in Oklahoma City. Mrs. Deen is temporarily residing with her husband's parents while he is stationed in Seoul, Korea, with the Air Force.

DEATH: Marion "Nick" Kuzmic, '57, died March 9 in Norman as a result of an auto accident. Kuzmic, 26, was a University of Oklahoma student until this semester and operated the 315 Restaurant in Norman. He was originally from Woodward and served in the Army in England for several years.

1958

Robert F. Holland, '58journal, has taken up duties as reporter on the *Guyton Daily Herald*.

Jerry Lloyd Ray, '58eng, is working for the Texas Company as a chemical engineer. He is located at Texaco's research and development laboratories in Port Arthur, Texas, where he is engaged in research leading to the development of new petroleum products.

Morgan Thompson, '58, has been employed by the American Legion Home School of Oklahoma, located in Ponca City. Thompson began work there on April 1.

Miss Joyce Palmatary, '58journal, is author of an article on O. U. journalism photography courses in the winter, 1958, issue of *Impressions*, published quarterly by Fairchild Graphic Equipment, Inc.

MARRIAGES: Mrs. Dianne Baker and Robert Lee Nelson, '58, were married March 7 in the Church of Christ, Oklahoma City. They are living in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Miss Hilda Ann Hopkins, Washington, Oklahoma, and Robert D. Albrecht, '58, Oklahoma City, were married in the Pennsylvania Avenue Methodist Church, Oklahoma City. The couple lives at 901 N.W. 13th. Albrecht is a senior at the University.

Miss Carla Kay Buttolph, '58, Bartlesville, and Theodore R. Solarz, '56geol, Cleveland, Oklahoma, were married February 21 in Norman, where they have made their home while attending O. U. She expects to receive her bachelor's degree this year, and he his master's.

Miss Carolyn Elizabeth Belisle, '58, Oklahoma City, and Lieut. Richard Milton Oliphant, '56eng, Bartlesville, were married February 15 in Oklahoma City. They have made their home at his station, Pope Air Base in North Carolina.

Miss Sandra Jo Wolfe and Johnny Charles Corona, '58bus, both of Wilson, were married there in the First Baptist Church in February. The Coronas live in Centralia, Illinois.

DEATH: Wayne N. Rucker, Jr., '58, Norman, was killed February 14 in an automobile accident in Tulsa. Rucker, 33, would have graduated June 1 from the University's College of Law. He was married and the father of two. Rucker studied at Oklahoma Military Academy before coming to O. U., and during World War II he served in Europe for three years.

PRETTY PLUCKY

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involved and the financial need. This year's individual grants, for instance, range from \$10 to \$60 a month.

"By the way," he added, "O. U. is one of the three universities in the country which offer students the Will Rogers funds. The University of Texas and the University of California are the others. The applicant to O. U. who receives Will Rogers funds must have a handicap, be a resident of Oklahoma, and have financial need.

"There are approximately 50 or so students enrolled at O. U. today who could take advantage of the funds. Most do. Others lack one of the qualifications or are too sensitive about their handicap to accept aid. The latter type are rare, though: the handicapped who continue their education are nearly all pretty plucky."

"Pretty plucky" is a pleasant understatement. Just how much pluck they have is evident from the vocational success some handicapped graduates have achieved.

An outstanding example is William F. Combes, who began teaching at Tulsa University last year after obtaining a Ph.D.

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in Psychology at O. U. Combes is totally blind.

Bryant Moore, also blind, is working on a master's degree and tunes pianos in his spare time to supplement the income both he and his wife, Helen—also blind—receive from the State and Will Rogers funds.

Well-known nationally are two handicapped students who took O. U.'s professional writing courses: Kent Ruth, author of *How to Enjoy Your Western Vacations*, and Bill Gulick, author of many western articles and books—such as *Bend of the Snake*, which was recently made into a movie. Ruth has a curvature handicap and Gulick had polio.

One handicapped Sooner who is not drawing funds from the State or Will Rogers scholarships is Elsa Alexander. She has received assistance from TV's "Queen for a Day" program. One of her friends nominated her for prizes last summer. Elsa, who, like Ruth, has a curvature handicap, was given an electric scooter which she has affectionately named "Herbie." And "Herbie" sets a pace for the sports car set as he makes his daily trek from the Women's Quadrangle to the Business Administration Building where Elsa leaves him to take up her studies in accounting.

An interesting aspect of extracurricular life for handicapped students at O. U. is a service-social group called the Double "O" Club. Founded in 1953, the club takes its name from the double wheels on a wheelchair.

Susie Seymour, a speech therapy major from Bartlesville and a past president of the club, speaks enthusiastically when asked about the activities of the Double "O'ers": "We have so many projects in mind. We hope to get tape recordings on file in the library of all basic courses offered at O. U. so blind students may use them and not have to hire readers. We're also preparing a braille map of the campus. And we hope to start a variety show with which

to build up additional scholarship funds."

As enthusiastic as Susie is another member of the Double "O" Club, B. W. Scott. A junior from Ardmore, Scott is a member of the Varsity "O" Club as well (he is an alternate center for the Big Red team).

"Susie should add that having a handicap is definitely not a pre-requisite for joining Double 'O,'" Scott said. "Most of us are just interested in helping handicapped students during their stay at O. U. Some of our members—like Susie—are working on degrees that will enable them to help handicapped students when they graduate."

Scott estimates that only two percent of the Double "O'ers" are handicapped.

Susie agrees. "And we feel that the University is just as interested and sympathetic with our goals as we are."

Because of such enthusiasm, handicapped students are finding their goals easier to reach at the University of Oklahoma. There are ramps as well as steps to a higher education.

VACATION ON MOON

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soon. We did not wish to be directly exposed to the rays of the rising sun falling perpendicularly on the side of the mountain so we hurried down the mountainside towards the car. Glancing back over my shoulder I could see the gleaming rocky peak glistening in reflected glory. I could all but hear the crackling of the rocks above me as they baked under the rays of a sun untempered by a blanketing atmosphere, and hence more intense than ever shone upon an earth desert at noonday.

Four hours later we reached the car and waited until the sunlight reached us at the foot of the mountain. There was no twilight. The sky was perfectly black as the prominences, the great flaming tongues of the sun appeared above the distant rim of the crater, then the edge of the sun's disc. It was nearly an hour before the lower edge of the disc cleared the horizon, and the sun was started on its 354-hour journey across the sky.

We had a weird trip back through that gleaming downpour of light and heat. Projecting rocks and ledges cast dense black shadows which swallowed up all that entered them. Once we stopped the car and got out to stretch our legs. I stepped into the shadow of a little hillock and was astounded to find it so dark that I couldn't even see where I was going. On earth we grow accustomed to the reflected light from

the sky and fail to realize conditions without an atmosphere. As I walked back to the light Bob came running toward me and was relieved to see me step into the sunshine again.

September 30, 2126. An eclipse of the sun! The sun has been mounting higher and higher each day and drawing nearer the earth until today it passed behind. For three hours we were plunged in total darkness except for starlight. All the hotel residents gathered on the glass-covered roof garden of the hotel and watched the phenomenon. The earth loomed four times as great in diameter as the sun. The sun's great flaming prominences 200,000 miles high lingered several minutes after the disc proper had settled behind the earth. We could imagine thousands of people all over this side of the earth running out in their yards to gaze up at an eclipse of the moon just as we gazed up at their earth eclipsing the sun.

October 7, 2126. The sun set today with no more dusk after its edge dropped behind the horizon than there was dawn when it arose 354 hours ago.

We saw a monument this morning which is very emblematic of this dead planet. Chiseled on the side of a stone pillar we read "Weather Prediction." And below it there was a tabulation of the temperature for each hour of the 708-hour day. We thought of the little notations in the upper corners of daily newspapers on earth, giving weather predictions for the next 24 hours. And here on this lifeless dreary sphere someone years ago had set down in stone a permanent weather prediction. He had only to set down the temperature over a 708-hour cycle, for there is no rain, no snow, no high or low barometer, no high or low humidity, no prevailing winds or any of the other variables which keep meteorologists busy on earth.

October 14, 2126. Bob and I decided to lengthen our visit until today in order to witness an eclipse of the earth. But there was no eclipse. The shadow of the moon on the earth was so small that we could barely see it without field glasses. With them it appeared only as a black dot moving swiftly across the face of the planet. We realized that from every point on the earth swept over by that black dot could be seen a total eclipse of the sun.

The earth is again full and the moon must again be new as seen from the earth. The stars have all completed a little more than a complete revolution over us.

Tomorrow we start for home, and after our 48-hour return trip our vacation will be over and we will go back to work in the office.

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