

Finding it hard to get around campus today

Kristy Coleman wants a roommate, and she is suing the U. of Nebraska for denying her request. Coleman, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, believes the university is discriminating against her because she is disabled.

Under the guidelines of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, universities must provide equal access to buildings, programs and transportation for disabled students. Coleman says the school's refusal to honor her request violates her rights.

"I want a roommate, plain and simple," she says. "Everyone else gets one."

But for university officials like those at Coleman's school, ADA guidelines hardly provide a roadmap for determining what route universities should take to comply with the law, which went into effect last summer.

"Whether or not you are in compliance sometimes

depends on who you talk to," says Jane Jarrow, executive director of the Association on Higher Education and Disabilities.

The ADA guidelines are frustrating for people like Gary Shumaker, assistant director of Physical Plant at the U. of Notre Dame. For Shumaker, it's not a case of not knowing who to turn to for answers — it's a case of the answers blanketing too wide a range of requirements.

The school spent \$10,000 to meet the needs of multiply disabled Dawn Parkot before she arrived, but she still



Parkot: Access denied

cannot access many buildings on campus.

Although most schools are willing to work with students, the complexity of the ADA guidelines makes it impossible for administrators to comply fully, Shumaker says.

Officials at other universities, though, are taking a wait-and-see attitude.

"We're still waiting to see what the specifics are going to be under ADA," says Jane Moore, assistant dean of students at the U. of Delaware.

But Delaware student Donald Moore, who is unable to move his arms or legs, says the school has a long way to go in providing equal access to disabled students.

"They have a lot of changing to do. They are taking their time doing it, whether it's neglect or ignorance I don't know." ■ Michael Symons, *The Daily Targum*, Rutgers U. Angela Opperman, *Daily Nebraskan*, U. of Nebraska, contributed to this brief.

► It takes a lot of balls to be this artistic at St. Mary's

It's just four balls of polyurethane, but it's caused the most heated art controversy at St. Mary's College in 15 years.

The Great Bulbous Sculpture Controversy began when the untitled work by artist Marcia Kaplan was put on outdoor display at the all-women's Catholic college in Indiana.

And reaction to the sculpture has run the gamut. "The sculpture was so blatantly sexual that the lawn was not the appropriate place to display it," says junior Jennifer Rasmussen.



MARGUERITE SCHROPP, THE OBSERVER, ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

But senior Christine Makarewicz says the sculpture has artistic merit. "I was glad to see that it was on our campus," she says.

Hard times — or a hard body — broke the sculpture and St. Mary's administration leapt to the rescue.

President William Hickey decided to move the art indoors where it could be protected.

The saga ended in September three weeks later when faculty pressure forced the administrators to move the work back outside.

But students like Makarewicz still are bitter. "If you're going to put something that has possible controversial content, a college campus is the ideal setting." ■ Monica Yant and Anna Marie Tabor, *The Observer*, U. of Notre Dame/St. Mary's College

► Thrill seekers risk it all in elevator surfing adventures

At least three college students have died in the last two years while elevator surfing — a thrill reserved for those seeking an adrenaline rush by hanging from cables underneath or riding atop a moving elevator cab.

In September, a freshman at Southern Methodist U. was killed while elevator surfing.

Two freshman were hanging below a dorm elevator there, riding up and down when one of the students lost his grip and grabbed the other, causing them to fall about 30 feet. Michael Schlosser was killed and his roommate, Adam Charlesworth, broke his arm in 25 places.

The death shocked the campus. "This kind of loss of life just seems like something that should not have happened, but it does," says freshman Edwin Lampert.

In March 1990, a student at the U. of Massachusetts died when he lost his footing in an attempt to move from a shaft beam to the top of an elevator cab. After the incident, school officials said they received reports of "elevator surfing" but hadn't caught anyone.

And an Indiana State U. student was killed instantly in a similar accident in March 1991. Three students were riding on top of a dormitory elevator when it stopped on the top floor. The students tried to climb down the side of the elevator, and one of them lost his grip and fell onto another cab traveling up the shaft.

In an attempt to prevent more lives from being lost, some universities have installed alarm systems or other deterrents to keep students out of the shafts. Vanderbilt U. officials responded to the growing problem by installing an alarm system that stops the elevators when a light-ray beam stretched across the shaft is interrupted. ■ David Nelson, *Daily Campus*, Southern Methodist U.

► Rocking the awareness of young American voters

It's hip. It's cool. It's on MTV... but there's a lot more to it than music.

Rock the Vote, created two years ago by musicians and several record companies, is working to get young people to vote. And the statistics show they're doing well so far. By October, the organization had registered 100,000 people to vote.

"Our goal is to reverse the trend in this country since 1972, the first time 18-year-olds got to vote and 59 percent turned out," says Michael Dolan, national field director of Rock the Vote. "There has been a decrease in the number of 18-to-24-year-olds who vote." In 1988, 36 percent of those 18 to 24 were registered, and only 9 million of those 25 million voted, he says.

Rock the Vote is taking a grassroots approach in its drive to improve those statistics. Volunteers register people at concerts, musicians take the message to their audiences, public service announcements are broadcast, a toll-free information line is available and displays are placed in various businesses.

The presidential candidates also support its efforts. "Rock the Vote is helping to bring a lot of new people into the political system who are disenfranchised with 12 years of Republican promise..." says Ethan Zindler, assistant press secretary for the Clinton/Gore ticket.

In the opposition's camp, Torie Clark, press secretary for the Bush/Quale campaign says, "Anything that helps increase turnout, we think is good."

And Dolan hopes Rock the Vote will help youths have a foothold in American politics. "Rock the Vote is a permanent feature of the contemporary political scene," Dolan says. ■ M.J. McCollum, *The Temple News*, Temple U.

► College freshmen go the way of the dinosaur

The latest wave of political correctness is wiping out freshmen across the country.

Once called "freshmen," students entering college for the first time at several universities now are called "first year students," but no one seems to agree whether it's an important issue or a politically correct fad.

Nebraska Wesleyan U. is one of the latest to make the change. Students started the move and now the term "freshman" has been phased out campuswide with the exception of the registrar's office. "Reactions have been mixed... some students couldn't care less," says Colleen Gowen, assistant vice president for university relations at NWU.

Students wanted the change because the term is not inclusive, says senior Ashley Phillips. "Students are changing — they're not always fresh people," he says. "It's difficult to call... a grandparent a freshman."

Although few students complained at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Penn., administrators decided to use "first-year student" anyway. The change was frivolous and superficial, says junior Jon Reade.

"The administration has taken a pseudo-politically correct stance," Reade says. "It's about as important as calling a dormitory a residence hall."

The administrative mandate hasn't changed students' language much, he says. "People say frosh, or freshman, or a host of other names that I wouldn't repeat," he says. "Most people don't see what the point is."

"First year" advocate Kristin Lange says listening and communicating are what matters. "It's not the one word that's important, it's the meaning behind it," says the U. of Kansas senior. ■ Toni Jensen, *Volante*, U. of South Dakota

► WORTH A LAUGH...



"Yuppies are dorks who strap like wolverines on speed when they can't have a restaurant's window seat in the non-smoking section with cloth napkins."

—Douglas Coupland, author of *Strange Planet*