



## Everyday problems abound in life Disabled students prove solutions exist

By KATHY HEBERGER  
Staff Writer

Life in a wheelchair isn't a piece of cake, disabled students agree, but they're not complaining.

A good ice cream cone is more of a challenge any day. "I always tell people 'Don't worry, I've never run over anybody by accident,'" business management and insurance senior Bob Brown said. Brown, 31, is one of about 54 students on campus who must get around in a wheelchair. "It wasn't until I met with a terrible accident that I realized I had to do something other than paint houses," he said. "It was time to put my mind to work."

Brown lives in Woodrow, USC's Transitional Living Center. The center, located in the Horseshoe area, is a year-round home for its seven residents. The federally-funded residence hall has 18 days of vacation scheduled for the students.

"We like to say there's lots of TLC here," psychology junior Ricky Brown (no blood relation to Bob Brown) said. "We get kind of tight. Sometimes there's disputes, sometimes we get along great. It's like a family. When somebody moves out, you feel like something's missing."

With their wheels for getting to class, braces on their arms for holding forks or pens and nurses to help them in and out of the shower and bed, disabled students make routines out of extraordinary circumstances.

What could go wrong?

"The weather," personnel management senior Robert Slee said. When it rains, students in wheelchairs grab trash bags for cover and get slower around the corners. "I've slid into walls before. Those floors get slick," Ricky Brown said.

"Falling out of a wheelchair isn't fun either. . . .until you get back in," he said. He added that he really doesn't laugh too hard at the "I've fallen, and I can't get up" commercial.

Crowded elevators present another headache for the disabled students. "But the stairs just get in the way," Slee said.

Ricky Brown, 21, was paralyzed in a football accident while at J. L. Mann High School in Greenville. "I always knew education was important, but I really wanted to come to college to play football," he said.

He said he hopes to watch his cousin Leshun McGreer play as a walk-on with the Gamecocks next year.

Freshman Lloyd Rivers, 21, broke his neck in a basketball court fight four years and four months ago. Now he's in a wheelchair.

Rivers hasn't decided what to major in yet. He just got through deciding to come to college instead of his previous decision to join the military. "I don't think I would be here if I wasn't in this chair," he said.

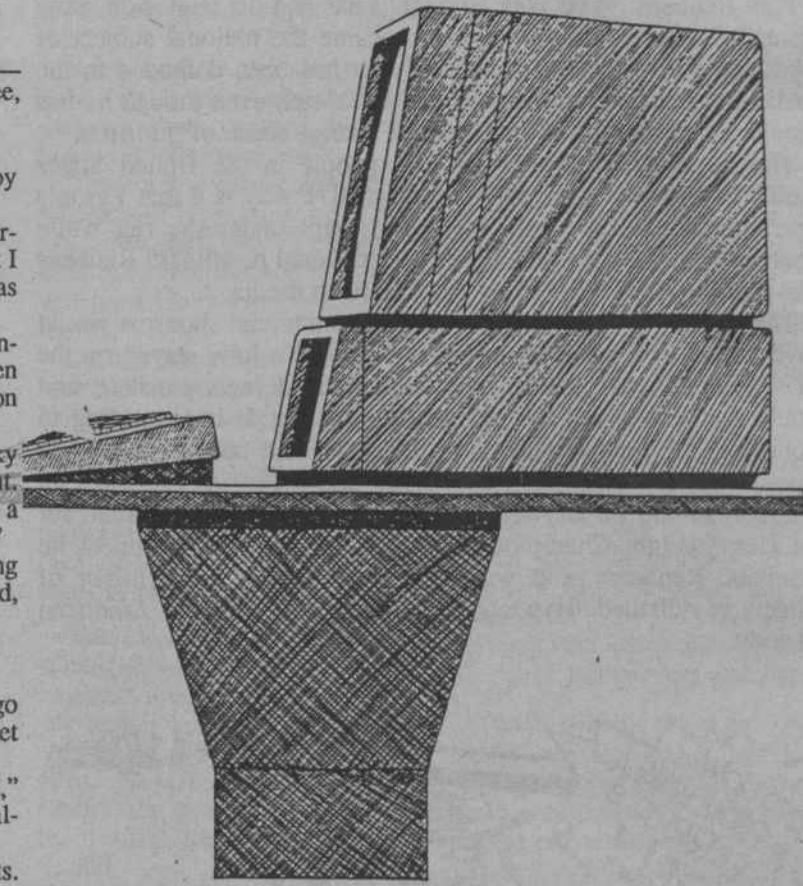
Rivers' favorite place to roll around on campus is the Russell House. "There are always lots of people there. One day I might meet the right person," he said.

Rivers and other Woodrow residents said they find ways to work around the schedules the dorm requires them to keep.

"I fell asleep in front of the library the other day. Somebody woke me up, thinking my chair's battery was dead. Man, I was mad. I was sleeping good," Ricky Brown said.

Second year law student Tim Evatt doesn't have the luxury of free time that the undergraduates have. He tries to finish his 80 to 100 page reading assignments before 10:30 p.m., when someone from an agency puts him to bed.

"My education comes first right now," he said. "Law firms aren't go-



ing to say 'He's got a 2.0, but he's in a wheelchair.' They don't play," he said.

Evatt, 25, fell out of a tree in February five years ago. By August he was back at Clemson, working on his political science degree and trying to beat his sister's 3.8 GPR. "I got bored at home. You can only read the newspaper so slow," he said.

Leaving the security of home brings change to disabled students' lives. They said the change is positive.

"At home, my mom wanted to do everything for me. I'm the baby of the family and all," Rivers said. "Now I'm doing these things on my own."

When they feel stressed, these avid sports fans can't work out their frustrations at the gym. "When I get mad, I usually call up a friend I haven't talked to in a long time. My phone bill can be sky high," criminal justice junior David Hiller said.

Hiller, 22, has been paralyzed since birth. "People will go way out of their way to avoid my path when they see me coming. It makes me wonder if they're scared of me or of getting their toes run over," he said.

Rivers agreed that people stare a lot when he wishes they would just nod or open a door to help him through. "People should just treat people in wheelchairs as they do everybody else. We're just here trying to make it and get on with our lives," he said.

## Family quabbles pervade in play

### Theater Review

By TRESSA HAYNES  
Staff Writer

Imagine June Cleaver having Madonna for a daughter and you've got a contrast similar to the one in Mayo Simon's play, *Elaine's Daughter*, which opened at Workshop Theatre Wednesday night.

Mrs. Brady might have had her share of problems with Marsha, Jan and Cindy, but all three of her daughters combined could never have come close to being as hard to deal with as the one daughter Elaine had.

Barbara Lowrance plays Elaine, who is the kind of woman most men dream about marrying - charming, attractive and a good cook. Also, she's a definite Mrs. America in the spirit of '50s reruns. (You know, the ones that made you want to tell the women in them to PLEASE get a life.) Still in the Dark Ages, Elaine seems quite content that her primary goal in life is to please a man.

Night and day. Black and white. Elaine and Beth. Played

by Anne Harrington, Beth is a woman who makes Gloria Steinem look like a wimp. Needless to say, she has a few problems having a mother like Elaine.

Beth spends most of the play brooding with cutting sarcasm and a negative comment about everything. Undaunted, Elaine is bubbly and flirtatious, and at times you might think brainless. Throw in a "raving faggot," a fireman with the personality of a brick wall and his son, and you've got a play that is at times very funny and at times very disturbing.

Should you see this play? Sure. What will you get out of it? That depends on who you are. Male or female, conservative or radical, whether you agree with Beth or think she's bananas, there is something for everyone to gain from this play. Not only a few laughs, but perhaps a bit of understanding might come from seeing *Elaine's Daughter*.

Lowrance and Harrington share the cast list with David G. Holland, Jerry Jewler and English H. Weston, Jr., under the direction of Debra Leopard Long. A superb job is done by everyone involved in the production.

Bravo to Workshop Theatre for kicking off their new season with spunk. *Elaine's Daughter* through September 27. Call 799-6551 for tickets.



O.K. SO I'VE HAD SORT OF AN UNDISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC CAREER. IT'S NOT TOO LATE

TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, BUT CLASS PRESIDENT? TOO MUCH RESPONSIBILITY.

V.P.? THEY WIND UP DOING MOST OF THE REAL WORK.

I COULDN'T BE SECRETARY. I'M JUST NOT THE TYPE AND I CAN'T TYPE.

I DON'T EVEN TRUST MYSELF WITH MONEY. SO TREASURER IS DEFINITELY OUT.

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The Women Students' Association wants you to walk with us!

Meet us in front of the Russell House on Greene Street at 6pm.

We will meet and walk to the rally as a group.



You are cordially invited to attend a presentation

**One Woman: Anger, Fear and Pain**

by Fredrica Gray  
(rape survivor and women's issues leader)

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