

CAROLINA!

Making the Transition

Living Center offers help for handicapped

By WENDY HUDSON
Staff Writer

USC — In February 1986, Tim Evatt was a 20-year-old college student with a bright future ahead of him as a lawyer.

That future was nearly shattered when Evatt fell out of a tree and broke his neck, leaving him quadriplegic. He was confined to a wheelchair with no use of his legs and limited use of his hands.

Seven years later, Evatt is only one-and-a-half months away from graduating from law school thanks in part to the Transitional Living Center (TLC), a division of Student Health Services.

TLC is a program that allows severely handicapped students an opportunity to attend college in a traditional manner, according to Bill Hill, interim director of Student Health Services.

"TLC is the genesis of a project we started because we were interested in having severely handicapped students attend a university in South Carolina," Hill said. "These patients needed special care. In an effort to provide the proper environment and support structure, the TLC project was initiated."

For Evatt, the program meant he could earn his law degree and still maintain a level of independence.

"I lived on my own for two-and-a-half years before I developed a pressure sore," Evatt said. "Because of surgery, I needed more nursing care, and this program was able to provide it. They always have a staff 24 hours a day, and they are very good about medical needs and attention."

The program was started 10 years ago and offers 24-hour nursing and attendant care. Located in Woodrow, TLC can accommodate eight students, but this year, only six are enrolled.

The program is one of only eight in the nation, according to Susan Nelson, TLC's clinical social worker. To be admitted, a student must be physically and educationally qualified.

"A person must be a severely disabled student who needs skilled or immediate level nursing care, and they must be able to meet the guidelines and admission criteria of the university," Nelson said.



Lan Tran/The Gamecock

History junior Bruce Larimor says he has no problem asking for help at the TLC.

"Essentially, they are students. They must be able to function independently and go to class, do their homework and meet with their advisers. If they can't make it academically, they can't utilize our services."

The main objective of the program is to teach handicapped students to live independently while at college and after graduation, according to Dorothy Parker, director of TLC.

"First, we want to offer a bridge and an opportunity for individuals who have severe handicaps to experience a fairly typical collegiate life," Parker said.

"Second, we want to offer the opportunity for people to increase their independence. Many come from nursing homes or a home where their parents have taken care of them. Most want to eventually have an apartment or home of their own. We teach them here how to manage attendant care, access transportation systems and use Medicaid.

"Third, we want to assist in getting them the support of the university services they may

need, like the disability support services."

Before Evatt's accident, he was a student at Wofford in Spartanburg. The August after his accident, he enrolled in Clemson, near his hometown of Pendleton. Four years later, Evatt graduated and started law school. He lived in an apartment in Pinckney-Legare before moving into TLC.

"Moving here gave me more independence," Evatt said. "While I lived in Pinckney-Legare, I used an agency that would come at 10:30 at night and 6:30 in the morning. It was a real time constraint. If I wanted to sleep in, I couldn't tell them that and expect them to wait."

"Here, I can stay out late and not have to worry about coming in at a certain time."

Freedom is a part of the college experience Nelson hopes to provide to the students.

"Here, they can get the full college experience," Nelson said. "They live on campus and experience campus life. Their physical needs are met while they prepare for a career in the future. We encourage students to do as much as they possibly can so they can lead the most independent life possible."

The program has had 30 participants in its 10 years, and all but two have graduated from college or are still attending school. The average student stays two to two-and-a-half years, according to Parker. The majority of the graduates remain in the Columbia area and are employed either full-time or part-time.

Preparing the participants for the future is an important aspect of the program, according to Parker.

"The issue is about the quality of life," Parker said. "If an individual can access transportation, manage attendant care and learn communication skills, their quality of life is going to increase. We allow them the opportunity to succeed."

TLC has always tried to integrate the disabled students into the full USC community. The effort has been increasing by participants and the student body in the past few years, according to Nelson.

When Evatt graduates in December and moves out of the TLC program, he's taking a new independence but leaving old friends.

"I'll miss the people here," Evatt said. "I've made a lot of friends in the nursing assistants and staff and, of course, the students. I like to think we are one big family. We help each other out and encourage one another, especially during the school year."

"Yes, I'll definitely miss the people here."

Hormones, not dirt chief cause of acne

From Staff Reports

USC — Zits, pimples, pizza face. No matter what it's called, it's probably acne.

Everyone has seen it, and some of your friends may have it. Actually, 80 percent of people get acne at some time. Without proper treatment, though, severe acne can sometimes scar skin for life.

What exactly is this annoying disease? Acne is a condition in which the oil glands become plugged up and then swollen, sore or reddened. Researchers have traced the onset of acne to the biological changes taking place as people mature during adolescence.

Increased levels of hormones circulating through the body produce changes, including greater production of skin oil and enlarged oil glands.

In most cases, the oil spreads onto the surface through your pores and produces oily-looking skin. When pores get clogged, a blackhead forms.

Blackheads are the mildest type of acne. Pimples or whiteheads form when the plugged material breaks through the wall of the oil glands. But the most severe form of acne occurs when whiteheads, blocked from any opening to the skin's surface, rupture and cause inflamed sores to develop.

There is a lot of misinformation about the causes of complexion problems, from old myths to superstitious folk tales. But a few causes are known to be true.

Dermatologists know what aggravates acne. Certain cosmetics, especially the oil-based kinds, and certain habits such as leaning on your hands can make acne worse.

Sports equipment or workout clothing can also promote acne, particularly helmet chin straps, shoulder pads or tight spandex garments. Menstruation or too much sun can also worsen acne.

Also, if you spend a lot of time on the telephone, be sure to keep the receiver clean of makeup and skin oils.

Acne is not caused by dirt, but it is important for teenagers to wash two or three times a day with mild soap and warm water. Wash thor-

oughly enough to clean skin but gently enough to avoid irritation.

Some over-the-counter products do well at controlling mild forms of acne. These include benzoyl peroxide preparations, salicylic acid or sulphur and resorcinol products. Special soaps and alcohol-soaked pads may also help, but avoid harsh scrubbers of cleansing grains. Overuse of these can aggravate an existing problem.

Prescription antibiotics are sometimes needed to clear up tougher acne cases. Antibiotics taken internally can be effective. These should be used only under the supervision of a dermatologist.

Acne may affect your self-image and the way you relate to other people. If it bothers you for more than a few weeks or if it appears to be worsening, with pimples turning into large cysts, consider seeing a dermatologist, a physician who specializes in skin, hair and nail problems.

For more information on acne, send a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to: American Academy of Dermatology, P.O. Box 681069, Schaumburg, Ill., 60168-1069.



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