

## Attitudes seen as real disability

Henry Holden urges change

By Joanne Catherson  
Capital Times Staff Writer

"Attitudes are the real disability," said actor/comedian Henry Holden during a lecture in the Gallery Lounge on March 14. Holden's lecture attempted to dispel the myths and stereotypes surrounding people with disabilities.

Holden has been a vocal advocate for eliminating the misconceptions of disabilities for over twenty years. In 1952, when Holden was four years old, he contracted polio. "I was fortunate to contract polio," Holden said. "I say this because I have quality of life."

Holden's disease, which requires him to use braces and crutches, has never stopped him from pursuing his dreams. His "quality of life" includes such physical enjoyments as downhill skiing, flying gliders and single engine airplanes, bowling in league competition, and riding in the National Horse Show at Madison Square Garden.

Holden has also pursued his dream of acting, performing in such television shows as *Hill Street Blues*, *Knots Landing* and, most recently, Ted Danson's sitcom *Becker*.

According to Holden, misconceptions about disabilities can be eliminated by

changing the way the media represents those with disabilities. During a slide presentation, Holden showed examples of how the media manipulates public opinion. One slide showed a *New York Times* article on a rally for the Americans with Disabilities Act. The photograph accompanying the article showed a somber-looking woman in a wheelchair with a tearful man kneeling next to her. Holden pointed out the photograph should have shown the actual rally, a crowd of people holding signs, instead of a lone woman in a wheelchair.

Another slide showed a headline exclaiming, "Handicapped kids are people, too," sparking one audience member to say, "Well, what else would they be?"

Holden agreed and wondered if the paper would have written a headline such as "Blacks are people, too" or "Jews are people, too." Holden also feels children need adult role models with disabilities to shape their views.

Amy Keith, an applied behavioral science major, who spent time in a wheelchair when she was 12, said one thing she distinctly remembers about that time was shopping with her mother and not being able to get her wheelchair into the dressing rooms.

Dr. Robert A. Scott, assistant professor of behavioral sciences and education, who brought his Wednesday classes to the lecture, feels the most important thing to remember is "to see the person and not the disability."

## CAMPUS POLICE REPORT

By Kerry Monaco Capital Times Staff Writer

### February 13, 2001

5:05 p.m. - Student reported someone answered phone when no one was supposed to be in a Flickinger Street residence.

### February 15, 2001

4:00 p.m. - Report of juveniles skateboarding in Olmsted parking lot. Gone on arrival.

### February 16, 2001

1:00 a.m. - Pedestrian crossing sign stolen. Valued at \$35.  
10:00 p.m. - Report of pests in Weaver Avenue residence. M & O contacted.

### February 17, 2001

4:16 a.m. - Assisted Lower Swatara PD with intoxicated male at Shane's Flight Deck.  
2:50 p.m. - Report of plumbing problem in Kirtland Avenue residence. Housing contacted.

### February 18, 2001

3:15 p.m. - Observed juveniles striking trees and shrubs with golf clubs. Juveniles were told to leave the property and there was no damage reported.

### February 21, 2001

3:30 p.m. - Fire in Weaver Avenue residence due to a motor malfunction in the residence's heating unit. Fire department put out fire.

### February 24, 2001

9:29 p.m. - Report of heating unit not working properly in Nelson Drive residence. Housing contacted.

### March 3, 2001

8:43 p.m. - Sleds removed from area of the engineering building.

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