

# Handicap doesn't handicap him

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Geer said if he really worked at it he probably could pump his own gas, but it'd be such a time-consuming process persons waiting to use the pump would grow impatient waiting for him. Other handicapped persons, such as quadriplegics, aren't as fortunate.

Geer was able-bodied up until seven years ago when a still-unexplained spinal infection struck, leaving him without use of his legs. This is his first job

in seven years, in part because his physical limitation limits the amount of time he can sit comfortably at a job and partly because employers were convinced he couldn't perform the job. He landed the job at the gas station in March because he's a high-school friend of Keller.

"I APPRECIATE the opportunity to work," Keller said. "This way I can get some credit established and I can meet more of the public."

It's important for the handicapped to socialize with other handicapped persons in a support group, Geer said, because "there are certain feelings I can talk about that you can only discuss with a person in a similar situation."

On the other hand, Geer said, "you want to socialize with anybody and everybody — you don't want to limit yourself." Or for that matter, he said, feel sorry for yourself.

Without whining about his handicap, Geer said there are times he's annoyed by things designed for the general public that are inaccessible to the handicapped. Automatic teller banking machines, for example, Geer said, are unwieldy for persons in a wheelchair because the screen can't be read from the height of the chair.

His comments are stronger about business places with an inadequate number of handicapped parking spaces or drivers without a handicap who use the parking spaces.

When asked if he's glad he had the use of his legs for the first 21 years of his life, Geer said he never thinks in those terms.

"I just do what I can and forget what it used to be," Geer said. "I live the way it is the best way I can."

## ATTENTION PRO CHOICE VOTERS

Dana Wilson has consistently voted to oppose reproductive rights for all women in Michigan. His voting record reflects continued rejection to the freedom of choice position supported by a majority of Americans. Voters in the 15th state senate district (including Farmington, Farmington Hills & Southfield) have an opportunity in the August 10th Democratic primary to defeat Dana Wilson and cast a ballot for reproductive freedom for all women.

Paid for by Oakland County National Organization for Women, Box 203, Lathrup Village, Mi. 48076

### obituaries

**ELTON ROY McCOLLUM**

Mr. McCollum, 76, of Farmington died July 27 in Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital, Detroit.


Mr. McCollum was a retired chemist for Ford Motor Co.

Survivors include his neices, Harriet

La Clare and Mrs. Edward Spargue. Services were July 28 at Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. William Frayer of Embury United Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkley.


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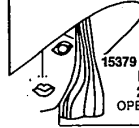
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