



## "STAR WARS" TECHNOLOGY CREATES A TAXPAYER!

Chandler AZ: 18 year old Franklin Halwood's neck was broken and his spinal cord was smashed in an auto accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down. He spent the next 15 years as a resident of a geriatric nursing home reading and watching TV. Employment was out of the question.

About 18 months ago Halwood began rehabilitation training. With the help of what his rehabilitation counselor calls "Star Wars Technology," Halwood, who is now 34, works as a data entry and research technician for the American Indian Research and Training Center at Northern Arizona University's Institute for Human Development.

The technology which has enabled Halwood is called the SenSei System from Saffko International of Chandler, Arizona. SenSei ('sensay,' which is Japanese for "master" or "teacher") allows severely disabled people to access computer technology, control their environment, manage communications, adjust electric beds, master infrared devices, and realize personal and financial independence.

Halwood sits at a computer and studies the screen. The cursor moves quickly from file to file but halwood's hands remain motionless at his sides. Roger Nosker of the Rehabilitation Services Administration observes that it is computer technology that recently became available that made employment possible for Halwood.

"To me it's (like) science fiction," said Nosker. "He can operate a computer and a telephone. He's working and increasing his kills. And not only that, this guy is a taxpayer."

The Apple Macintosh-based SenSei System includes hardware

and software to assist individuals with physical or cognitive disabilities to perform tasks that until now have been impossible.

Its "hands free" keyboard and repertoire of pictures or icons facilitate a wide range of activities. The user



**Elizabeth Jimenez takes a break from her SenSei System to give her product review with a satisfied smile.**

places or receives phone calls by 'clicking' on the telephone icon.

Selecting the environment icon gives the user control of lights, temperature, and security systems. The SenSei Library gives access to most business applications. People with speech disabilities can speak through a natural or synthesized voice feature.

For further information contact Saffko International, 3140 North Arizona Ave., Suite 111, Chandler, AZ 85234 (602-497-1987). ■■ (Also see "One User's View...")

## ONE USER'S VIEW OF THE "STAR WARS" TECHNOLOGY

My name is Elizabeth Jimenez. I am 38 years old and I am a quadriplegic.

Before having the SenSei System in my life, my daily activity was very, very limited. Just before my personal care assistant left me each

after sunset. When this would happen, she would arrive home to find me sitting in the dark because we had forgotten to leave a light turned on. With SenSei, I control my environment. Not only can I control the lights, but I can control the ceiling fan, the thermostat and other electrical appliances.

On days when I knew someone would be over, I would have to arrange to have the front door left unlocked and opened. It was necessary but scary. I was afraid of intruders. Now, I have my door lock hooked up to my SenSei System and I can let people in who I want to see. In the case of a fire or personal emergency, I could not call for help before SenSei. Now, with the telephone connected to my SenSei, I can call for help or dial 911 if the need should arise.

When I wanted to write in my personal journal or write a letter to a friend, I would have to dictate what I wanted to say to someone else and have them write it down for me. Now, with SenSei, I have the ability to write for myself. This is more important than I can say.

The SenSei System even has software programs and games that I can share with my children. This gives me quality time with them even though my physical movement is so limited.

The SenSei System is a godsend to me. If I have something important to do, I can do it myself. I don't have to rely so much on someone else. I am not afraid to be left alone at home because the system allows me to be in control and to take care of myself.

I love the independence, control and the privacy that I now have with the help of SenSei. It is more important than these simple words can convey. ■■

afternoon, I would be placed in my wheelchair in front of the television set. The television would be set on one station and there it would stay whether I liked it or not. I was not in control. I could not change the channel or adjust the volume. Almost everyday, my mother would come home from her job and find me asleep in front of the television. Now that I have SenSei, I can turn the television on or off at will, adjust the volume and change the channel to watch what I please.

In the winter months, before I had SenSei, the sun would set in the early evening. On some occasions, my mother would not get home until