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COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY: ENABLING THE DISABLED

In a small office located on the campus of Northern Arizona University, Franklin Halwood sits in front of a computer and studies the screen.

The cursor on the computer's screen moves quickly from file to file as Halwood completes his work, yet his hands remain motionless at his sides.

Until 1 1/2 years ago, Halwood spent much of his time reading or watching television. Computer work, or any other type of employment, was not even a consideration. Involved in an automobile accident when he was 18, Halwood suffered a broken neck and a smashed spinal cord which resulted in his being paralyzed from the neck down. For the past 16 years he has been a resident of geriatric nursing homes.

Thanks to computer technology Halwood is now both employable and employed.

Independent living is an ambitious goal for Halwood and many other Americans with disabilities. Unfortunately everyday tasks like using the telephone and turning on the television often prove to be major obstacles in the path to this independence.

Now, however, this can all be a thing of the past because they can control a television or telephone, and it can be only a click away with a SesSci™ Computer System. For further details: Salko International, Inc., 5148 North Arizona Avenue, Suite 111, Chandler, Az 85224 or phone (602) 497-1987.

More computer tips:

•Practic Research Company manufactures a line of speech output communication devices with Minispeak™ that empowers a non-speaking individual with the ability to communicate. It also produces several Minispeak Application Programs (MAPS) which are pre-stored vocabularies for specific client groups. For more information: 1-800-848-8088.

•Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service to Share Computers with individuals with disabilities and organizations that serve these persons. If there are questions about this project contact David O'Donnoghue, Computer and Network administrator, MP & A, 1-800-283-5923.

•Computer-Disability News; Editor: Kimberly L. Doyle. C-D News is published quarterly as an educational service by the National Easter Seal Society. They encourage readers to send comments and suggestions. All correspondence should be addressed to the editor, C-D News, Publications Section, National Easter Seal Society, 70 East Lake Street, Chicago, IL 60601.

•Product Database Now Offered in IBM and Mac Versions: A compact disk containing ABLEDATA, a database listing more than 17,000 products designed for people with disabilities, now is offered in both IBM and Macintosh versions. Contact the Trace Research and Development Center at the University of Wisconsin, 8151 Waisman Center, 1500 Highland Ave., Madison, Wis. 53705 or 608/263-1156; this resource can ease your technology search.

•Technology and Disability, edited by William Mans and Joseph P. Lane, is a peer-reviewed journal that focuses on the application of rehabilitative and assistive technology for persons with disabilities, particularly in the performance of major life functions. It addresses the needs of persons with visual impairments, beginning with an overview of technology applications, including four major methods used by persons with low vision or blindness to gain access to information and specific applications of technology. To obtain a subscription to Technology and Disability please \$75 (individuals, U.S. and Canada), \$98 (institutions, U.S. and Canada) to: Journal Fulfillment Department, Medical Publishers, 80 Montvale Avenue, Stoneham, MA 02180.