



# News

MARCH, 1985

## disABILITY Rally Day '85

Plans have been set for the Disability Rally Day '85 activities. We invite everyone to travel to Austin for 2 days of orientation and advocacy with your State Senator and Representative. An agenda of the days' activities is provided in this newsletter.

On Monday morning, March 25th, The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities will be sponsoring a special information session on the CTD legislative priority issues and hosting a press conference on the attendant care issues. The press conference is scheduled for 9:00am. with the information session beginning at 9:45am. The activities will be held in the Big Bend Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Representatives of the CTD Legislative Committee will present updates on the legislative issues of attendant care, in-home services (primary home care and family care), the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons' funding, TRC, TCD, TCB and MHRM budget requests, legislation for the primary caucus and local measured service.

Please plan to attend this session to prepare yourself for your visits to the Capitol. We plan to complete this session by 11:30 am. to allow you some time to visit with your legislator before the afternoon activities.

If you have any questions, please contact the CTD Central office 512/443-8252. We look forward to seeing all of you for Rally Day '85.



### STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE BILLS

SB 390 - Gas Station Service for Disabled Drivers

Senate The Senate State Affairs Committee heard public testimony and received calls and letters of support from many representatives of the disability community. But on March 4th the Bill did not receive enough votes to get reported out of the Senate State Affairs Committee. (A more detailed article on this issue will appear in the CTD Quarterly Newsletter.)

## STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE BILLS

SB 46 - moratorium on Local Measured Service (LMS) until 9/1/90

Senate Sponsor (and author): Chet Edwards (Dem, Dist. 9, Duncanville).  
Referred to Economic Development Committee. No hearings scheduled yet. Support mounting. Only 1 more favorable member needed for bill to pass committee.

House Sponsor: Charles Evans (Dem., Dist. 92, Hurst).  
Referred to Science and Technology Committee. No hearings scheduled yet. Waiting for Senate action.

## ☆ COMING ATTRACTIONS ☆



### TRANSPORTATION WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 20th has been set for the CTD Transportation Workshop. The Workshop will be held in San Antonio (location to be announced) and will include presentations on the accomplishments in the past, the situation in the present and possibilities for the future in public transportation. The Workshop will address the issues of the mobility impaired, the concerns of the visually impaired and why some organizations are adopting civil disobedience to accomplish their goals. The workshop will be free and open to the public, registration information will be sent in the near future. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

### CTD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET

The CTD Board of Directors will hold their quarterly meeting in Crockett Texas on March 22-24, 1985. On Saturday morning, we will hold a consumer forum to meet with local residents to discuss their concerns. The forum and meeting will be held at the Crockett Inn. For more information contact the CTD Central office.



## CTD's Editor's Note:

The CTD News is edited and published monthly by the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, a state-wide cross disability consumer group. Any member who wishes to submit future articles for publication should send them to: CTD, P.O. Box 4709, Austin, Texas 78765. The deadline for submitting articles is the first of each month for that month's edition.



# Letters



Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

P.O. Box 4709  
Austin, Texas 78765

(512) 443-8252 v/tty

February 16, 1985

Steve Currier, President  
MIGHT  
P.O. Box 5746  
Austin, TX 78763

Dear Steve,

Your letter will be in the next monthly bulletin. CTD's official position on the transportation issue is to support the bi-modal approach. Obviously, not all disabled persons can use the fixed-route systems. After carefully reading Jim's letter in the bulletin, I believe that he expressed support for CTD's position. As a matter of fact, CTD's position was taken by approving a position paper written by Jim in 1982.

Just as only having 100% accessible buses will not meet all the needs, neither does having only para-transit systems. The fact is that there is not one para-transit in Texas, or anywhere else probably, that is meeting the needs of disabled persons. In Amarillo, for example, the para-transit system is owned and operated by a private agency. Its funds come from federal grants and local contracts which place restrictions on who can use the service and for what reason. I cannot use the service at all and no one can be transported to and from work or school. The city, however, claims that because they bought a lift equipped van for the agency four years ago that it has fulfilled its legal obligation to provide transportation for disabled citizens. I certainly do not consider this equal access! And Amarillo's situation is typical.

It seems to me that squabbling over the issue among ourselves will only give APTA, the government and transit systems an excuse and a weapon for doing nothing about the problem.

Jim Parker and CTD supports equal access to public transportation for all disabled Texans. We agree that,

WE WILL ALL RIDE,

*Marshall Mitchell*

Marshall Mitchell, President

**Amarillo** '85

## DISABILITY RALLY DAY 1985

### AGENDA

#### LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING AND RECEPTION

Monday, March 25, 1985 -- Hyatt Regency Hotel, Austin

- 2:00-2:15 p.m. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS  
Bobby Simpson, Chairperson, Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons
- 2:15-4:15 p.m. PANEL DISCUSSION ON FUNDING AND ISSUES  
Chairman: Jim Oliver, Director, Legislative Budget Office  
Members:  
James Adkins, Executive Deputy Commissioner  
Texas Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation  
Tom Anderson, Deputy Commissioner, Texas Education Agency  
Vernon M. Arrell, Commissioner, Texas Rehabilitation Commission  
Robert Bernstein, M.D., Commissioner, Texas Department of Health  
Marlin Johnston, Commissioner, Texas Department of Human Resources  
Fred R. Tammen, Executive Director, Texas Commission for the Deaf  
John C. Wilson, Executive Director, Texas Commission for the Blind
- 4:15-4:30 p.m. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES  
Judge Bob Thomas, Chairman, Council on Disabilities
- 4:30-5:00 p.m. \*GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS  
The Honorable Mark White
- 5:30-7:30 p.m. INFORMAL RECEPTION AND SOCIAL HOUR  
HONORING MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

#### CEREMONIES AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Tuesday, March 26, 1985

- Between  
10:00-10:30 a.m. \*\*READING OF RALLY DAY RESOLUTION (In House and Senate Chambers)  
READING OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SILVER MEDALIST RANDY SNOW  
(In the Senate Chamber)
- 12:00-12:45 p.m. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS BY THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES AND  
GUEST SPEAKERS  
(Front steps of Supreme Court Building, Northwest of Capitol Building)  
\*The Honorable William P. Hobby, Jr. \*The Honorable Don Lee  
The Honorable Chet Brooks \*The Honorable Terral Smith  
The Honorable Gonzalo Barrientos
- 12:45-1:00 p.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
Dr. James Caldwell
- 1:00-1:15 p.m. INTERPRETING SONGS WITH SIGN  
Cindy Cochran

\* Confirmation of participation is pending.

\*\* Refer to last page to obtain further information about House and Senate sessions.

## ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING RALLY DAY

The following activities will be happening in conjunction with Disability Rally Day. Please attend all activities which interest you or your organization. Once again, **MAKE YOUR PRESENCE KNOWN IN AUSTIN!**

### Sunday, March 24, 1985

#### **"Special People's Fair"**

The Austin Townlake YMCA will be hosting this event Sunday, from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Admission is free. There will be a variety of booths, activities, and general information sharing which will be of interest to persons with disabilities, and their advocates.

For more information:

Contact: Nina Mackta

Townlake YMCA

1100 West First Street

Austin, TX 78703

Phone: 512/476-6705

#### **Wheelchair Basketball**

Austin's own River City Rec'ers will be playing two exhibition games on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. and at 3:00 p.m. The gym will be open at 12:00 p.m. and admission is free. The games will be held at the:

South Austin Recreation Center

1100 Cumberland

Austin, TX

For more information:

Contact: Will Clark

Adaptive Programs

Austin Parks and Recreation

P.O. Box 1088

Austin, TX 78767

Phone: 512/453-7236

### Monday, March 25, 1985

#### **Coalition of Texans With Disabilities**

CTD will be meeting at the Hyatt on Monday from 10:00 a.m. til 1:00 p.m. to discuss their legislative priority issues.

For more information:

Contact: Jean Langendorf

Coalition of Texans With Disabilities

P.O. Box 4709

Austin, TX 78765

Phone: 512/443-8252

### Tuesday, March 26, 1985

#### **Association for Retarded Citizens of Texas**

ARC will hold a Breakfast Briefing at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel from 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the Terrace Room.

For more information:

Contact: Norine Jaloway

Association for Retarded Citizens of Texas

833 Houston Street

Austin, TX 78756

Phone: 512/454-6694



Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

P. O. Box 4709

Austin, Texas 78765

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Austin, Texas  
PERMIT NO. 1466

ARCIL A45  
AUSTIN RES CNTR IND LIVING  
2818 SAN GABRIEL STREET  
AUSTIN TX 78705

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

1.2 MILLION  
TEXANS  
DISABLED  
BUT ABLE TO  
VOTE