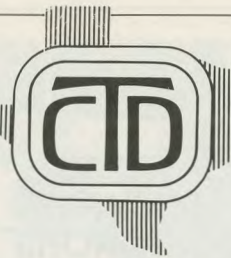


COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES



Spring 1985

NEWSLETTER



Representatives of State Agencies explain their budget requests during Rally Day activities.

BILL WOULD GIVE HANDICAPPED LOWER GAS PRICES

By Buck Ramsey

SEVERAL months ago Genee McDonald of Amarillo, a near quadraplegic from the effects of polio, got fed up with one of the ways the physically impaired are forced to pay a surcharge, as if they existed in some condition of special advantage. She didn't understand why she had to pay the 25-35 cents more per gallon at the full-service gas pump just because she was unable to get out and pump her own gas at the self-service pump.

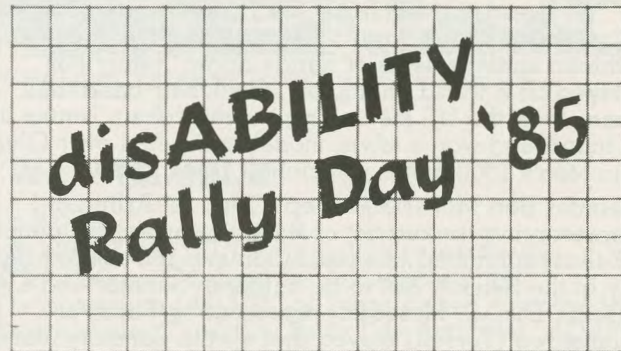
For awhile she tried to get around the extra charge by taking her friend, Karen Tumlinson, with her to pump her gas--Karen is sight-impaired. "It was a pretty funny situation," Genee recalls, "and it made Karen pretty nervous, really. I would have to park where I could see the gas meter so I could call out to Karen how much we had pumped and when to stop."

Genee figured there was a better way to deal with the problem. She looked around until she discovered that California has a law allowing handicapped persons to purchase gasoline at full-service pumps for the same price they could get it at self-service pumps if they were able.

She mentioned the problem and her discovery of a solution to Marshall Mitchell, a fellow member of the Advisory Commission for the Disabled and at that time President of Amarillo Disabled Individuals in Action. He asked Genee to get a copy of the California law and he would see what could be done about such a law in Texas.

"It wasn't long before she sent me a copy of the law," Marshall said. "The legislature wasn't in session, and to tell you the truth I kind of laid it aside and forgot about it. But this last summer when the legislature was preparing to come back into session, I got the law out and sent a copy of it to Senator Sarpalius with a letter suggesting we needed a law like that. His office soon contacted me, thanked me and said they would be back in touch."

—continued on page 2



ON March 25th and 26th, 1985, persons with physical, mental and developmental disabilities, their families, friends and supporters from all over the state came to Austin to participate in Disability Rally Day Activities. Thirty Statewide organizations sponsored events to focus public attention on the unity and strength of disabled citizens.

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities began the Rally Day activities on Monday morning with an information session on the 1985 CTD legislative priority issues. Held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, this session provided background information to the participants that prepared them for meetings with their Senators and Representatives. The CTD Legislative Committee and special guest, Bill Hale, Executive Director, Texas Commission on Human Rights presented their concerns and answered questions from the enthusiastic crowd.

Monday afternoon, a legislative briefing with a panel of representatives from seven state agencies was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. This session also included a report from Judge Bob Thomas, Chairman, Council on Disabilities, an address by Roy Kimble from Governor Mark White's office and closing remarks by Carole Keeton Rylander, State Board of Insurance. Monday evening participants attended an informal reception and social hour honoring members of the Texas Legislature.

—continued on page 3.



Participants attend an information session on CTD legislative priorities during Rally Day activities.



TEXAS SENATE HONORS RANDY SNOW

ON Tuesday, March 26, the Texas Senate adopted Senate Resolution 233 recognizing the outstanding athletic achievements of Randy Snow. Randy has played on a world champion wheelchair basketball team, won the US Men's singles wheelchair Tennis title 4 times, and won a silver medal in the first ever Olympic Men's 1500 meter wheelchair track race.

Senator Bob McFarland (Rep., Dist. 10 Arlington) representing the district of Randy's current residence (Eules) submitted this resolution and introduced Randy to the Senate. Not to be outdone, Senator Ted Lyon (Dem., Dist. 2, Mesquite) representing Randy's hometown (Terrell) moved that all the Senators' names be added to this resolution. The motion passed unanimously and Randy received a standing ovation as Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby presented him with the resolution. Several disability rights advocates were present in the gallery and on the floor of the Senate to witness this special moment.

Later that day, during the outdoor Rally in front of the Texas Supreme Court Building, Randy led the crowd in chants of "DISABILITY...ABILITY" and "DISABILITY...WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?" as he urged those present to make their needs known to the Texas legislature. "You have a right to receive the services necessary for you to achieve your own Olympic goals."

SB 390 — A GOOD IDEA THAT MAY NEVER GET OUT OF COMMITTEE

SB 390, THE Senate Bill filed by Senator Bill Sarpalius was referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee. 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.

SB 390 did receive five favorable votes from Senators Kothman, Brooks, Lyon, Sarpalius and Washington. In order to be referred out of this committee a bill requires seven votes. Senators Harris, Henderson and McFarland were absent and Senator Farabee did not cast a vote as chairman. Voting against SB 390 were Senators Blake, Edwards, Howard and Leedom.

During the Rally Day activities many disabled consumers spent time visiting with these Senators to encourage their support of SB 390. If those Senators who voted "no" or were absent during the first vote can be influence to support this bill, there may be hope for a second vote to get SB 390 referred favorably to the Senate floor. It is important that all Senators be educated on the need for this legislation. If we are not successful in passing SB 390 this session we will be working to secure passage of legislation in two years.

BILL WOULD GIVE HANDICAPPED LOWER GAS PRICES—continued from page 1.

"Then one day this January, he added, Senator Sarpalius's office got in touch with me and told me the bill was ready to be introduced."

By this time Marshall had become president of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities and he and Chuck Obermeyer of Austin, state advocacy director for the Texas Paralyzed Veterans of America, were invited as concerned dignitaries to the press conference in Austin at which the bill was announced.

Senator Bill Sarpalius introduced S.B. 390 on Thursday, February 7. The bill would allow handicapped persons identified by a windshield sticker or identification card to get their gas pumped by a service station attendant and still pay the self-service price.

"We think this is only fair for the state's handicapped people", Sarpalius said at the news conference at which he announced he would introduce the bill. "It's not their fault they can't pump their own gasoline. No station is equipped for disabled citizens to pump their own gas. These people are paying extra money for gas simply because they have a handicap."

The bill provides that if the handicapped person purchasing gas at the full-service pump requests services other than from the gas pump, he/she must pay the full-service price.

Most of those involved with the bill think it should have little trouble becoming law. Some think questions might be raised by convenience store owners who offer only self-service gas pumps to customers. But when these interests realize only gas stations with both self-service and full-service islands are covered by the law, observers say, they would drop any idea of opposition.

There are an estimated 60,000 handicapped people in Texas who drive. Say each one of those people use on the average one gallon of gas a day and the price difference at their self-service and full-service pumps is thirty cents a gallon. That means Genee's and Marshall's and Senator Sarpalius's bill could save physically impaired Texans over \$6.5 million a year.

(reprinted from *The Mainstream Monthly* March, 1985)



MAINSTREAM PUBLISHES REFERENCE GUIDE ON EMPLOYING PARAPLEGICS AND QUADRIPLEGICS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—PUTTING DISABLED PEOPLE IN YOUR PLACE: FOCUS ON PARAPLEGIA AND QUADRIPLEGIA is the first in a series of 12-page publications to be issued in 1985 by Mainstream, Inc. on hiring and placing individuals with specific disabilities. The reference guide is a product of the Mainstream Information Network (MIN).

The publication offers practical advice on interviewing, accomodating and supervising persons who have spinal cord impairments. Much of the information also applies to other wheelchair-using applicants and employees. Specific subjects include making the interviewing process accessible, what to ask and not to ask of a paralyzed job seeker, conducting a job analysis, and what supervisors and co-workers need to know about the new employee and his or her disability.

—continued on page 7

THE CIVIL RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT OF 1985

BECAUSE of last year's *Grove City* Supreme Court decision and the Senate's failure to pass corrective legislation, the Federal Government may now subsidize discrimination against disabled persons, senior citizens, women and minorities. The bipartisan Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1985 would prohibit federal funding of such discrimination.

The measure would clarify the intent of Congress and restore the principle civil rights statutes, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, to the broad scope and coverage originally intended by Congress.

The bill differs from last year's version in that it defines "program or activity," which was narrowly interpreted in the Grove City decision. The new definition sets up these important principles:

★★★ When a state or local government agency or department receives federal funds, the entire agency or department is covered.

★★★ When a university, higher education system, local education agency, or other elementary and secondary school system receives federal financial funds, the entire entity is covered.

★★★ When a corporation, partnership, or other private organization receives federal funds, the entire entity is covered.

All other entities fit into one of these three categories and are treated accordingly.

An opposing bill, the Administration-Dole-Hatch bill, does not fix Grove City. It applies only to education and could actually reinforce the Supreme Court's narrow interpretation of civil rights laws. The bipartisan Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1985 is the only bill that will return out civil rights laws to their former scope of coverage.



Supporters of ADAPT's demonstration gather across the street.

disABILITY RALLY DAY '85—continued from page 1.

On Tuesday, Rally Day activities were held at the State Capitol beginning with the reading of the Rally Day Resolutions in both the House and Senate Chambers and the reading of a resolution recognizing silver medalist Randy Snow (see related story). At noon on the front steps of the Supreme Court Building, the crowd of Rally Day participants were addressed by Senator Ray Farabee, Senator Chet Brooks, Senator Gonzalo Barrientos, Representative Don Lee and Representative Terral Smith. Dr. James Caldwell, 1984 Disabled Texan of the Year, gave the keynote address and Randy Snow encouraged all participants to visit with their legislators. The ceremonies ended on an enthusiastic note as Cindy Cockran performed; interpreting songs with sign.



ADAPT members attempt to board a Capitol Metro bus.

"WE WILL RIDE"

—by Bob Kafka

APPROXIMATELY forty individuals from the American Disabled for Accessible Public Transportation (ADAPT) of Texas staged a protest in Austin during Disability Rally Day Activities. ADAPT which has a statewide membership, has been actively calling for the purchase of buses equipped with wheelchair lifts. Brandishing signs and chanting "We will ride" and "Give us a lift", the Austin ADAPT members joined by supporters from across the state attempted to board the buses stopping at 11th Street and Congress Avenue in front of the Capitol.

Capitol Metro, the transit authority recently established by the Austin voters, had been alerted of the planned protest by unknown sources. They were able to schedule some of the newly purchased buses with lifts on these routes, but to their embarrassment the lifts could not be operated by the drivers. It was necessary for an operations manager to be called to the bus stop and be on hand to get people on and off the bus. ADAPT members were pleased to note that once a trained person began operating the lifts it took only one and a half minutes to board two disabled riders. Individuals who were in support of ADAPT but did not participate cheered the demonstrators on from across the street.

The demonstration's purpose was to bring public awareness to the fact that *all* new buses purchased by Capitol Metro should be equipped with wheelchair lifts. A spokesperson for ADAPT said this is just the first in their plan for future public awareness activities.



CTD EDITORS' NOTE

The CTD Newsletter is edited and published quarterly by the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, a statewide cross disability consumer group. Any member who wishes to submit future articles for publication should send them to:

Judy Wingard-Westbrook CTD
and P.O. Box 4709
Jean Langendorf, Co-Editors Austin, TX 78765

The Following are publication dates and deadlines for submitting articles:

July 15th Newsletter May 24, 1985



CTD CONSUMER ACCESS AWARDS IN FIVE TEXAS CITIES

by Sheila Bayne

WE have received a good response from our article on consumer access in the winter 84-85 CTD Newsletter.

The following business have been awarded CTD's Consumer Access Award:

- *Target Inc.* in San Antonio, nominated by Dennis Dildy, for providing a large number of handicapped parking spaces near the entrance, installing electric doors at entrance/exit, bathrooms and aisles are made accessible and employees provide courteous assistance.
- *Brookshire Grocery Company* in Tyler, nominated by Dixie A. Dillard, for remodeling of all their stores to provide ramps and easily accessible and visible designated handicapped parking spaces, in addition all produce counters have been lowered for easy reach of wheelchair shoppers, aisles are accessible and stores are well staffed with courteous helpful staff.
- *Luby's Cafeteria* in Tyler, also nominated by Dixie A. Dillard, for designated handicapped parking near entrance, undercover loading/unloading customer space, wide spaces for vans and front curb cuts, serving dishes and tray track at eye level from wheelchair users. Pleasant courteous staff is available to carry trays and escort individuals to their tables.
- *Safeway Grocery Store #1125* in Houston, nominated by Donna L. Sarver L.V.N., for provision of shopper assistance to disabled customers every Thursday from 8am. to 4pm.
- *Lufkin Lanes* in Lufkin, nominated by Jim Kitchens, for exceptional lanes, bathrooms and building access, and cooperative management and employees. The Owners are planning to start a handicapped/disabled league and are working on that promotion.
- *Lippe Chiropractic Center* in Austin, nominated by Sharon Gardner, for an accessible bathroom, ramp and railing and Dr. Lippes compassion toward the needs of the handicapped.
- *Stuart Anderson's Cattle Co. Restaurant* in Austin, nominated by Kathleen Fitzgibbon, for handicapped parking, ramps built into the design of the building both inside and out, accessible bathrooms including a stall for wheelchair accessibility.

By a resolution passed at the 1984 CTD Delegate Assembly, a Consumer Access Award has been presented to the *Texas School for the Deaf* with CTD's sincerest appreciation for the use of the TSD campus and for Dr. Victor Galloway's commitment to assisting CTD.

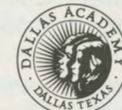
While the response has been gratifying much more needs to be done to improve access for the disabled. It is important that all of us recognize the businesses and public buildings that have been planned with an understanding of the need for accessibility and let these people know we appreciate them.

By nominating the deserving—to say this thank you in a most unique way, we can encourage these efforts. Call or write the CTD office to obtain a nomination form, fill it out and mail back to the CTD office or to a CTD Board Member in your area. Once we review your nomination form we will send the award to you to present to the business or management you nominated. You may choose the way you wish to present the award.

Input from all concerned citizens is vital—REMEMBER—the more access routes made available, the more public awareness of this need, consequently good publicity for other businesses to desire the same recognition by encouraging consumer awareness.

SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES AVAILABLE FOR THE LEARNING DISABLED

THE Dallas Academy, 950 Tiffany Way, Dallas, Texas announces a summer school program offering the courses in the following areas:



- Language Therapy
- Reading
- English
- Math and History

The academy is a junior/senior high school for students with average intelligence who have diagnosed learning disabilities including dyslexia, offering both a day and residential program to learning disabled adolescents ages 13 to 19.

FOR INFORMATION CALL: (214) 324-1481.

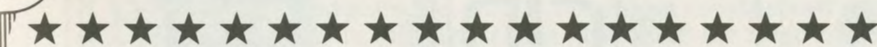
HANDICAPPED ACCESS VIDEO AVAILABLE

THE City of San Antonio, Texas, Handicapped Access Office and Public Information Office through its "Call City Hall" television information program, has developed a 25-minute video cassette which is an informal discussion of the Handicapped Access Office and its efforts to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Items briefly discussed are:

- the Handicapped Access Office's purpose and efforts to insure that San Antonio's facilities, programs and employment opportunities are accessible to disabled citizens
- involvement and advice of an advisory committee
- the essential team approach of the office to working with all City Departments
- how accessibility allows citizens to be contributing members of the city;
- transportation issues
- accessible voting sites
- sign language interpreters for the hearing impaired.

The video cassette tape is available for viewing by groups and professional organizations and requires a ¾ inch video cassette player and television monitor for viewing. For more information contact: Handicapped Access Office, P.O. Box 9066, San Antonio, TX 78285, (512) 299-7243.



USAAA 5th NATIONAL AMPUTEE CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE United States Amputee Athletic Association will host it's 5th National Championships in Nassau County; Long Island, New York this June 19th-23rd, 1985. The tremendous success of the 1984 International Games for the Disabled was a contributing factor in our decision, however, it was the overwhelming support of Nassau County, it's people and Corporate interest which were the most influential factors leading to our final decision. The accessible facilities provided by Hofstra University, Nassau Community College, Eisenhower and Mitchell Parks will further enable the USAAA to provide it's athletes with the best possible accommodations to date. The total cost of the games will be approximately \$500,000.00 with the majority of funds being raised through private donations, corporate support, state and federal support and various other foundations. Due to the non-profit status of the USAAA, all contributions are tax decuctible. The USAAA is the American representative of the *International Sports Organization for the Disabled (ISOD)*, which consists of over fifty member countries throughout the world, and a *Group E member of the United States Olympic Committee* representing Amputee Sports in the United States.

The games expect to see over 500 athletes, coaches, and officials representing over 45 states. USAAA Amputee Athletes will compete in ten different sports which are swimming, track, field, lawn bowling, air weapons, table tennis, archery, cycling, weightlifting, volleyball (sitting and standing), basketball (standing and wheelchair). There will be nine different classifications, A1-A9 and over 200 events. Athletes from Canada and Australia are also expected to compete giving the games an International flavor. Opening Ceremonies are scheduled for Wednesday June 19th at 6:00 p.m. at Mitchell Park. Competitions are open to any amputee who is a member of the USAAA and athletes compete according to classification giving those who are inexperienced the opportunity to compete with the best in their respective class gaining valuable insights which will help them in future competitions. These games are an *OPEN Championships* for all amputees in the United States. USAAA athletes have proven that they are world class competitors with over 30 *World Records* to their credit in the short history of the USAAA. Last year's Nationals provided the selection of 60 Amputee Athletes who competed in the 1984 International Games for the Disabled as the USA National Amputee Team. Those same athletes won over fifty medals and represented their country well in these disabled olympic competitions. From this year's Nationals the selection of the 1985 National Amputee Team will be made and those selected will represent the USA in World Championships in volleyball, weightlifting, track and field, and many other competitions in the next 12 months.

The United States Amputee Athletic Association is looking forward to these Nationals with great expectations. Our on going efforts to provide the best in athlete competitions both Nationally and Internationally for all USAAA amputees will indeed become a reality in Nassau County this June 19th-23rd. Should you require more information please contact any of the following persons: USAAA 5th Nationals

Dick Bryant
P.O. Box 2 County Line Rd.
Lawrenceville, Tn. 37062
615-670-5453
Games Director

Tony Giastino
Eisenhower Park
Hempstead Turnpike
East Meadows, N.Y. 11554
516-542-4615
Operations Co-Ordinator



SPOTLIGHT ON VISTA

GENE Ormsby, a CTD VISTA Volunteer placed with the WEST TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED (WTAH) in El Paso, is a multi gifted shining star with many facets. Gene has proved to be a vital asset to the association working closely with El Paso City and County officials promoting access to facilities and services. He has served as chairman of the Handicapped Center Advisory Board appointed by the City Council to oversee the handicapped recreation center and adjacent social service facilities.

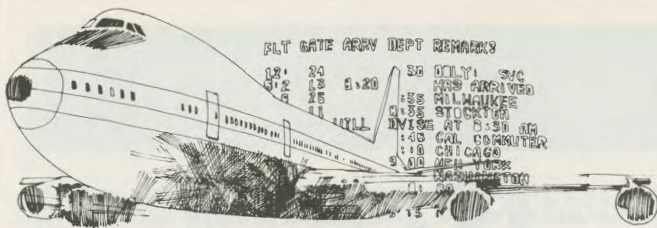
Gene has worked closely with WTAH's independent living center, EPOCH, serving as a member of the advisory board and serving on a committee to develop a transitional living center for disabled persons in El Paso. He has assisted with many fundraising events for WTAH and CTD which has brought in several thousand dollars and has continued a long-range funding project for foundation support. With the WTAH Vice-president he coordinated a massive mailing to obtain additional members.

Gene works with the media to obtain newspaper and TV coverage for disability related events or concerns. He edits the WTAH newsletter which provides information to all the membership. He has worked on a computer project for WTAH obtaining a computer, printer and supplies.

In short, Gene is a tireless worker in every aspect of the needs of the handicapped community in El Paso. Gene has been a VISTA Volunteer with WTAH in El Paso since November, 1981. CTD is privileged to have a VISTA with the concern, empathy and tireless drive of Gene Ormsby. On behalf of the handicapped of El Paso and everywhere, thank you Gene, and keep up your tremendous contribution.

Members of the CTD Board of Directors meet with residents of Crockett, Texas at a Consumer Forum during the March Board meeting.





HANDICAPPED TRAVELERS FLY; AIRLINE DEREGULATION CRASHES

THE American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, Inc. (ACCD) and other Leading disability rights organizations stopped attempts by the Reagan administration to exempt major airlines from handicap civil rights laws. "This decision sets the tone to reverse the tide of discrimination towards disabled people," said Dr. Phyllis Rubinfeld, President of ACCD. "It is a positive step toward the realization of equal rights for all people with disabilities."

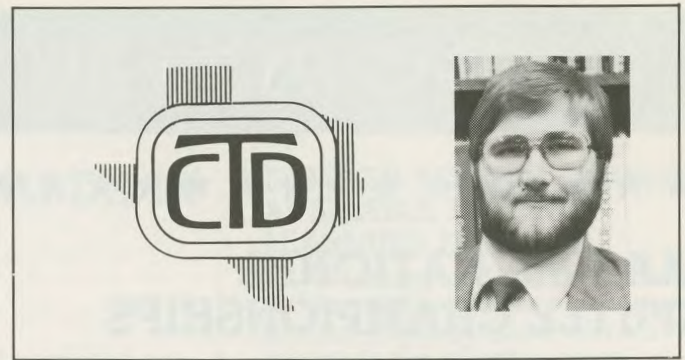
On January 18, 1985 the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia issued a unanimous decision which invalidated the Civil Aeronautics Board's regulations and ordered the Department of Transportation to make new regulations which apply to all major commercial airlines. The Department of Transportation has inherited responsibility for implementing Section 504, the civil rights law for people with handicaps, from the Board which sunset at the end of 1984.

The final Board regulation attempted to excuse major airlines from specific requirement which apply to small subsidized airlines: that they cannot require disabled people who do not need assistance to fly with a companion; that they cannot refuse to transport a disabled person based on unfounded fears that the person could not evacuate the plane in an emergency; and that they must provide information about the location of safety exits to blind travelers.

The Court rejected arguments by airlines and the Administration that since airlines receive no direct federal subsidies they are excused from the specific requirements of the regulations which require equal treatment of people with disabilities in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Senior Circuit Judge Bazelon reasoned that air travel would be impossible without extensive assistance from the air traffic control system operated by the federal government and without airports constructed with federal grants. Therefore, major airlines which do not directly receive subsidies from the federal government do participate in a federally assisted "program or activity" which must comply with Section 504. he writes:

Section 504...certainly must reach the treatment afforded a passenger who boards...(an airline) company's aircraft at, deplanes to, or reaches his destination safely and efficiently only because of a federally-funded airport. Congress meant and still means handicapped people to be free from discrimination whenever reasonably possible—not merely when...handicapped passengers happen to fly a small subsidized airline to a remote town or are lucky enough to find a large carrier treating them fairly out of courtesy.

ACCD and the other plaintiffs, the American Council of the Blind and the Paralyzed Veterans of America were represented by the Institute for Public Representation of Georgetown University Law School.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Marshall Mitchell

IT seems that this year has been one of battle after battle for disabled Texans thus far. With the state and federal governments having revenue problems and the current political mood of cut, cut, cut, we've had to fight for the very survival of some of the programs which are essential for many disabled Texans. And the fight's not over yet!

Programs and agencies such as student loans, Revenue Sharing, local mass transit, Community Development Block Grants, the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, the Texas Commission for the Blind, the Texas Commission for the Deaf and the Texas Department of Human Resources are facing possible elimination or severe cutbacks. All of these provide services which enable disabled Texans to be more independent. Eliminating or cutting back these programs and agencies is a step backwards toward the conditions of the 50's when disabled Texans were lucky to leave their bedrooms.

The Reagan administration has consistently attempted to cutback or eliminate programs which assist disabled Americans to become taxpaying citizens. Everyone agrees that the federal deficit must be reduced, but finding short-term savings by cutting programs which help disabled persons become more independent will create an economic disaster in the future. The government cannot afford to pay the bill for nursing home care for millions of disabled Americans. Nor can it afford to lose the revenue and productivity of millions of its citizens. Yet, that is the direction which this government is taking us.

What are we doing about it? Not enough! The CTD legislative committee has asked us to write letters expressing our concerns. Disability Rally Day certainly emphasized our issues for state legislators. We have testified at hearing after hearing stating our positions before committees and sub-committees in the legislature. All of these efforts have helped, but the battles are still raging on.

We have two choices. We can sit back and let it all happen *and* live with the consequences. Or, we can rally together and continue to fight for our equal rights to participate in society. Together we can prevent these harmful cutbacks. We've successfully halted these proposals in the past and we can do it again if we work together and don't give up. Write your legislators, both state and federal, to express your concerns.

Be involved! Together we can make a difference!
See you in Amarillo, September 27-29!!!!

HELPING THE NONDISABLED REACH THEIR HUMAN POTENTIAL—THROUGH LETTERS TO EDITORS AND OTHER GOODIES

—By Lisa Blumberg

RECENTLY I Suggested to a fairly intelligent nondisabled friend of mine that persons with disabilities face much the same type of prejudice that women have traditionally faced. She was incredulous.

"How can you compare the two groups?" she demanded. "Most women are healthy!"

I realized she was a victim of an unfortunate condition that slanted her mindset about disabled people—a condition which limited her ability to think clearly. She would need a kind of rehabilitation before statements such as the one I had made would be comprehensible to her.

Most nondisabled people are socially deprived. Few of them know any people with disabilities very well. Even fewer have access to accurate, unbiased information about issues concerning disability rights. It's not surprising, given these deprivations, that the typical nondisabled person views disabled persons as strange victims of fate rather than as simply a minority group subject to widespread discrimination.

People who think another group is inferior to them are not complete as people. Regardless of whether they're well-intentioned or not, people who are prejudiced—even if unconsciously prejudiced—do things that are harmful to themselves and others.

The nondisabled are not hopeless cases, though. We who are disabled must do what we can to help the nondisabled live up to their potential. No longer can we afford to let the nondisabled stumble around with their misconceptions. Those misconceptions handicap both them and us.

We must provide the nondisabled, therefore, with appropriate special education. We must challenge the assumptions they make about us—assumptions so deeply ingrained in the nondisabled that they're unaware these assumptions are nothing but prejudice. Indeed, we must challenge, in front of them, the whole idea that disability renders a person less-than-normal. Otherwise, they'll never learn.

We can expand the horizons of the nondisabled. Here's how.

We've all read articles that distort disability issues, or that use negative terms to describe us. Civil rights issues are depicted as medical issues; nondisabled employers who refuse to hire us are considered lacking in "compassion"—with not a word about discrimination in the stories. Disabled athletes are praised in the media for their courage rather than their obvious physical ability. Words like "deformed" and "defective"—words supposedly banished years ago—are making a comeback.

We should not let these articles slide by with a shrug or silent anger. We should take time to write a brief letter to the newspaper or magazine, explaining exactly what's wrong with the article.

Our letter should be no more than two paragraphs, and it should be written in plain, simple language that an ordinary nondisabled person can understand.

It's good, if you can, to make some comparison with other groups who have been oppressed. And be sure to mention in passing that you have a disability yourself. As ridiculous as it may sound, it has never occurred to many nondisabled people that people with disabilities have views on how they and their issues are portrayed in the media.

Letters-to-the-editor columns usually get wide readership. And even if your letter does not get printed, it will be seen by and have some effect on the person who wrote the article.

Feminist Gloria Steinem encourages women to write five letters a week on women's issues. Can each of us aim for just two letters a month on disability issues?

My second suggestion involves some expense. Alone or with some friends, we should select the most bigoted person we know and give him or her a gift subscription to a magazine such as this one—something which promotes an understanding of disability issues. Repeated exposure to the views of people with disabilities just might aid in the nondisabled person's rehabilitation.

WELCOME CTD's NEW MEMBERS

ADVOCACY INC.

7700 Chevy Chase Drive Ste. 300
Austin, Texas 78752

This organization implements the federally mandated protection, advocacy and client assistance programs.

AMERICAN DISABLED FOR ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSIT (ADAPT)

2810 Pearl

Austin, Texas 78705

Contact: John Hoffman

This organization works for the promotion of accessible mass transportation in the state of Texas

PEOPLE AGAINST BARRIERS

Texas Union Box 364

University of Texas

Austin, Texas 78713

Contact: Carole Patterson

This student organization is dedicated to removing barriers and enhancing accessibility for disabled students.

PARENTS OF THE HEARING IMPAIRED, INC.

4425 S. E. 28th

Amarillo, Texas 79103

Contact: Mrs. Edna Henderson

This is a Local chapter of the national organization of Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf, it's purpose is to inform, encourage and assist parents of hearing impaired children.

MAINSTREAM PUBLISHES...continued from page 2.

The cost of the publication is \$7 (including handling and postage) and is available by sending payment to: Mainstream, Inc., 1200 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, Attn: P & Q Publication.

Mainstream, Inc., is a national, non-profit organization that seeks to create greater employment opportunities for disabled people. It will issue its next disability reference guide—on deafness and hearing loss—in April.

Reprinted from *The Disability Rag*, March-April, 1985. Subscriptions to this disability rights magazine are available for \$9/year, contact THE DISABILITY RAG, BOX 145, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40201.

JOIN CTD

THE Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to cross-disability communication, cooperation and coordination. The Coalition promotes the social, education, physical, and mental well-being of disabled Texans. The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities brings together people and organizations with similar goals in a united effort to represent all disabled Texans to government, the private sector, and general public. Membership in the Coalition enables organizations and individuals to enhance their effectiveness in improving the quality of life for Texans with disabilities.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual Member

- Yearly \$5.00
 Life Member \$100.00

Please make checks payable to: CTD
P.O. Box 4709
Austin, Texas 78765

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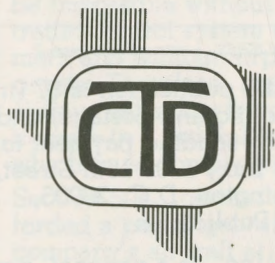
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