

News

JULY, 1985

FUN★RUN

WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN.... AND HELP CTD?

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities and member organizations in four cities will be holding the CTD FUN★RUN in late August and September. This year's fund raising event, previously called Jog★Rama, will help CTD and local member organizations. The FUN★RUN is an event where sponsored individuals Jog, Walk, Run or Roll around a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile track as many times as possible in one hour.

In Austin, plans are underway for the big event on Sunday, September 15, 1985 from 8 am - 3pm at St. Stephens Episcopal School. Runners and sponsors are needed. Any organizations interested in joining in the fun and sharing in the profits (50/50 split after expenses) can contact Stephanie Thomas, FUN★RUN coordinator at 512/482-8543, or the CTD Central office.

John Banik of the San Antonio Citizens Concerned about Handicapism (SACCH) is making plans for the San Antonio event. He can be reached at 512/532-5076. In Dallas, Bill McCoy, CTD VISTA Volunteer, is working with organizations to hold a big FUN★RUN. Bill can be contacted at the U.C.P. Dallas office, 214/358-1898. Alan Meyer at the Houston Center for Independent Living, 713/795-4252, is planning an event for Houston.

more...

If you are interested in helping CTD, its member organizations and have some fun, contact one of the FUN*RUN Coordinators or contact Linda Montani at the CTD Central Office 512/443-8252. We can't do it without you!



VOTING ACCESS INFORMATION NEEDED

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is interested in monitoring the implementation of state (SB 306) and federal (PL 98-45) legislation regarding voting access for persons with disabilities. This legislation mandates at least one polling place within each precinct be accessible to handicapped and elderly voters.

To help CTD monitor this accessibility we are asking member organizations to let us know of compliance or non-compliance experienced by their members. It is very important that we hear from you so we can effectively monitor this legislation. Please send your experiences to Voting Access Subcommittee, CTD, P.O. Box 4709, Austin, Texas, 78765.



DIRECTOR PERSONIFIES INDEPENDENT LIVING



John R. Weir, executive director of El Paso Opportunity Center for the Handicapped (EPOCH), passed away Saturday, July 6 in a local hospital. A memorial service will be held Friday July 19th at 11 a.m. in the Multipurpose Center for the Handicapped, 9031 Viscount. Contributions for the John R. Weir Transitional Living Center will be gratefully accepted.

John Weir personified the independent living philosophy. Injured in a driving accident at age 16, Weir was a C-5 quadriplegic who used a motorized wheelchair.

Although rehabilitation counselors told him he was too handicapped to attend college, Weir persisted and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in political science and education from Eastern Michigan University.

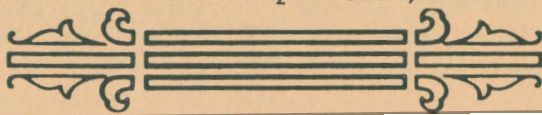
In 1976, Weir began work with the Washtenaw County Comprehensive Employment Training Program as a Vocational counselor. He was involved with the planning and founding of the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living and wrote the initial grant proposals for the center. Weir later became the attendant care coordinator for the center.

As executive director of EPOCH, Weir was interested in seeing change. He believed that the most effective way to break architectural and attitudinal barriers was for disabled individuals to actively participate in their community. With the West Texas Association for the Handicapped, Weir advocated for improved and extended Handy-SCAT service. He was actively involved with the Mayor's Accessibility Task Force for Disabled El Pasoans, serving co-chairman of the transportation barriers subcommittee.

John Weir was a pioneer in the independent living movement. He summed up his philosophy in the following statement: "There's no tried road that tells disabled people how to live, how to succeed--- it's all trial and error. With this opportunity for trying new ways comes the responsibility to make them work."

John Weir took this responsibility seriously and made his new ways work.

(The WIAH Board of Directors has appointed Suzanne Brown as interim director of EPOCH. Applications are being accepted by the WIAH Personnel Committee for the executive director's position)





BULLETIN

SOCIAL SECURITY EVALUATES CONTINUING DISABILITY ELIGIBILITY

Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret M. Heckler on April 29, 1985, proposed new regulations on review of continuing eligibility of individuals who receive Social Security and Supplemental Income Disability payments.

This is another giant corrective step which will make extensive changes in the review.

Generally, the new rules provide that once an individual is collecting disability payments, substantial evidence must be shown that medical improvement has occurred and that the person is able to work before SSA can determine that the individual is no longer eligible to receive payments.

These rules, the cornerstone of a new, revised review process, lay the groundwork for the administration of the disability program fairly, compassionately and on a uniform national basis", "Secretary Heckler said. "In designing these rules, we have carefully adhered to the intent of Congress that people not be taken off the rolls unless medical improvement has occurred."

The new rules represent a response by the administration and Congress to concerns that the disability review requirements of the 1980 Social Security Disability Amendments resulted in unforeseen hardships to individuals whose benefits were terminated even though their conditions were unchanged. In September 1984, the Congress passed a comprehensive reform bill, the Social Security Disability Benefits Reform Act. The legislation included a number of provisions to improve the program and emphasize a personalized decision-making process in line with Secretary Heckler's earlier introduction of face-to-face interviews and evidentiary hearings.

The medical improvement standard will provide maximum protection to the beneficiary whose continuing eligibility is under review. The new rules provide guidance on how to apply the standard and the several exceptions incorporated into the law.

The proposed review process ensures that the decision will be made on a neutral basis without encouraging any particular outcome or point of view by the decisionmaker. A decision that there has been improvement in a person's impairment must be demonstrated by a comparison of the prior and current evidence used in the original decision.

(Reprinted from BREAKTHROUGH by Mae Reeves, Social Security Administration)



National Toll-Free Numbers

AMC Cancer Information Center	800-525-3777
American Council of the Blind	800-424-8666
American Kidney Fund	800-638-8299
Better Hearing Institute Hearing Helpline	800-424-8576
Cancer Information Service National Line	800-4-CANCER
Children's Defense Fund	800-424-9602
Closer Look LD Teen Line	800-522-3458
Epilepsy Information Line	800-426-0660
ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult Career and Vocational Education	800-848-4815
HeartLife	800-241-6993
International Shriners Headquarters	800-237-5055
National Center for Stuttering	800-221-2483
National Crisis Center for the Deaf	800-446-9876
National Down Syndrome Society	800-221-4602
National Health Information Clearinghouse	800-336-4797
National Hearing Aid Society	800-521-5247
National Information Center for Educational Media	800-421-8711
Spina Bifida Hotline	800-621-3141



City of Cleburne Loses the Fight Against Group Home

On Monday, July 1, 1985 the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the City of Cleburne violated the rights of mentally retarded persons by preventing a group home from opening in a residential neighborhood. The decision said the zoning law, which required the home to get a special use permit, "appears to rest on an irrational prejudice against the mentally retarded."

The Court found the City's requirement of a special use permit for a group home of mentally retarded persons to be a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. Other groups such as fraternity houses, nursing homes and apartment houses exist in the same neighborhood without such a permit.

The Court applied the "rational basis test" to find the special use permit requirement unconstitutional. In doing so, the Court rejected the argument that a higher level of scrutiny is required, and so declined to classify mentally retarded persons as a "quasi-suspect" class. Quasi-suspect is the status afforded women under the Equal Protection Analysis.

As a result of the Supreme Court decision, the group home for 13 mentally retarded persons will be opening in Cleburne in the near future.



FROM THE STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND:

Members of the United States Congress, both Senate and House, are now in the active process of finalizing an appropriations bill for fiscal year 1986.

Of particular importance this year to blind and visually impaired individuals is the increased attention being given to Part C of Title VII, Independent Living for Older Blind Individuals.

At no time before has Congress been more receptive to at last funding this part of Title VII which has never been funded before. Money appropriated to this particular part of the Rehabilitation Act would enable the development of several independent living training programs across the country that would help prevent many older Americans from being placed prematurely and unnecessarily into nursing homes or other institutions. The individuals who would benefit from Part C fall through the cracks of every other service system.

If services to this population are of a concern to you also, you can contact members of Congress this week or next and express your sentiments.

Upcoming Events :


OCTOBER CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON
FAMILY SUPPORT NEEDS



The Challenge of Disability: Support For Parents, the third national Parent-to-Parent family support conference will be held in Seattle, Washington on October 4, 5, and 6, 1985. The conference is sponsored by the King County Advocates for Retarded Citizens.

The three day conference will focus on methods of providing emotional support and information to persons whose lives are touched by developmental disabilities, and will examine the issues of need/concern for persons in a variety of roles within a family unit (i.e. single parents, siblings, grandparents, adoptive parents, fathers, and parents whose children live elsewhere), and the specific issues involved in creating, maintaining and strengthening support groups for these individuals.

For more information on the Challenge of Disability: Support For Parents contact Ms. Pat Condie, Parent-to-Parent Program Coordinator, King County ARC, 2230 8th Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98121 (206) 622-9292



INTO THE 21st CENTURY

INTO THE 21st CENTURY - 21st Annual Conference, TACLD, Texas Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities. October 30- November 2, 1985. North Park Inn, Dallas, Texas. For Information contact LaNelle Gallagher, 2117 Flat Creek, Richardson, Texas 75080 or the TACLD State Office, 1011 West 31st Street, Austin, Texas 78705, phone 512- 458-8234, Dorothy Strance, Coordinator.

Announcing :



MEDICARE DOCTORS LISTED

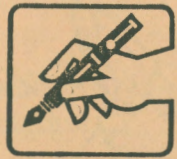
Listings of physicians participating in the Medicare program have been completed for all 50 states. You may recall that last fall the Department of Health and Human Services, in an effort to contain rising medical costs, asked physicians to sign up voluntarily to accept Medicare assignment. That is, to accept as full payment the rates set as "fair and reasonable" by Medicare.

Some doctors declined, but numerous others decided to support the program and their enrollment provided the data now available. Every Social Security office now has the printed lists of these physicians. Interested persons can go to their Social Security office and copy the needed information.

But there is another, easier way to acquire the same information. You can write to Medicare Relations, P.O. Box 660331, Dallas, Tx. 75266-0031 and ask for the Medicare Participating Physicians and Suppliers Directory and send a \$2 check for each county's listing. Be sure to specify which county roll you want. Delivery is slow, but worth waiting for.



LIVE OAK FUND
Application for Funding
Proposals Available Now



The Live Oak Fund for Change has announced a funding cycle for Fall 1985 and invites organizations working for social change in Texas to apply for grant funding for their projects.

The Live Oak Fund for Change is a public foundation supporting grass roots organizations working to bring about social, political, and economic changes.

Applications for the Fall funding cycle may be obtained by telephone or written request. The telephone number is (512) 476-5714 or write: The Live Oak Fund for Change, P.O. Box 4601, Austin, Texas 78765.

If you have any questions, contact: Jane Porter or Rob Lavis at the above telephone number.

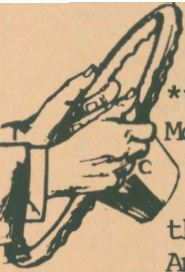


NEW HEARING ASSISTANCE

Metavox has introduced their new "Listening Glass II", a smaller, more portable unit than before, yet easily as powerful as the original version of "The Listening Glass". The new "Listening Glass II" is small enough to be placed in a pocket, yet the sound quality is immediately obvious.

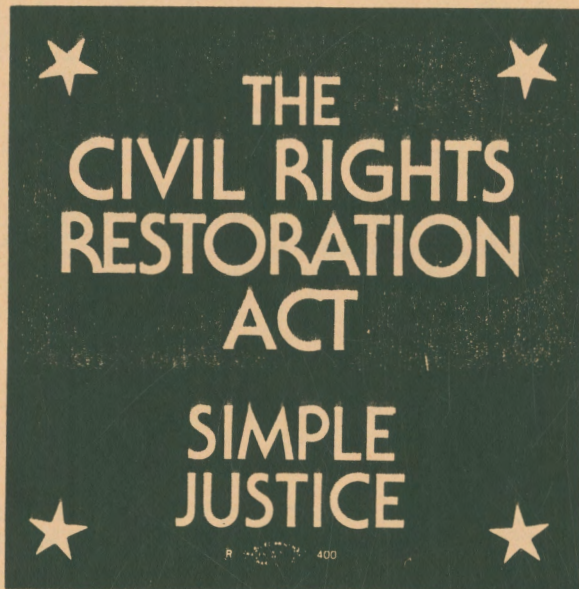
This new hearing assistance devise is made in in such a way that it can be worn so that it is not conspicuous. Sounds come through stereo headphones for high-quality, distortion-free listening.

For more information contact: Metavox, Inc.,
8375 Leesburg Pike #421 Vienna, VA 22180.



***Wheel Good News** AAA's Handicapped Driver's
Mobility Guide Makes the Automobile more Accessible

Former race-car driver Tom Luce directs the handicapped driver research program for the American Automobile Association. Luce who has multiple sclerosis test drives cars with adaptive equipment and has written a 94-page mobility guide. The newly revised Handicapped Driver's Mobility Guide can help you find equipment and locate services that can make the world more accessible. You'll find the book at your local AAA office.



ALERT: In the next month the U.S. House of Representatives is expected to vote on the CRRA. The message is simple:

SUPPORT HR 700, Civil Rights Restoration Act.
OPPOSE Substantive Amendments.
DO NOT ALLOW Tax Dollars to Support Discrimination
Against Individuals with Disabilities.

June 17, 1985

Letter to the Editor:

As a disabled Texan and citizen of this State for almost 40 years, I must say that I was appalled and outraged at the recent comments by our Texas Governor, Mark White. Governor White, June 7, 1985 was quoted by the Associated Press in an article in the El Paso Times as suggesting that mentally retarded persons, etc., wanting to live in group homes should locate in industrial areas should there be neighborhood resistance.

What kind of words are these coming from a supposed national figure and one who is the leader of this State? Does that also mean that if persons of different color or religion meets resistance in residential neighborhoods that they too should be re-located in industrial areas? I, for one, had hoped that this Governor of our State, yes even disabled people have a claim on Texas, would have a more enlightened attitude toward disabled people. Or does he believe that people who are trying to break out of institutions really have no place living next to 'nice, decent people? Such a mentality smacks of racism and discrimination and disabled people across the State should respond with outrage and anger at such outmoded, paternalistic attitudes.

Our representatives on the quote, "Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons" should either challenge such statements or resign! We cannot allow such statements to stand as it is the first step toward dilluting progress in attitude change toward rights of disabled people!!

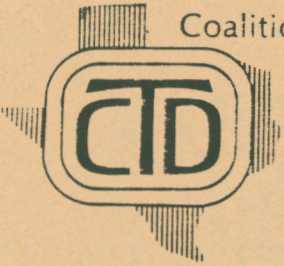
Maybe we should advocate burying nuclear waste under the Governor's mansion? Did I really vote for White?

Jim Parker
2708 Aurora
El Paso, Texas 79930

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.





Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

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