

H IN ITS 19TH
R YEAR
A OF
SERVICE

Handicapped Resource
Association of Texas
April/May 1998



THE RESOURCE

→
*Educating, advocating
and empowering adults with
disabilities*

A newsletter sponsored by Westlake's
Arlington Hardware

HRA loses a lifetime friend

HRA lost one of its founding forces this year with the death of Jim Doyle on January 10 from complications after heart surgery. Jim was a positive, prime mover in the development of HRA; his influence will be greatly missed.

Jim attended UTA and the University of Dallas, and had worked for LTV and HUD. The family asked that Memorial contributions be made to HRA, or the charity of your choice, and many of you chose HRA.

Thank you, donors for your support in Jim's memory. You were:

John and Jennie Lee Dycus, Robert & Heidi Grissman, John & Dixie LaBella, Linda L. Hanratty, Luz Elena Day, Kathi M. Lohry, Carol A. Latimer, Gay Swofford, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Ninfa A. Andrew, Kim A. Pulica, Ann Ornelas, Ellen J. Bothner, Robert & Annabelle Henderson, Douglas J. Harnett, All Saints Catholic Church Singles Group, Margaret & Thomas Kennedy, Irma M. Crawford, Paul Stubblefield, Mary J. Weber, Lonora Whitehead, Marilyn Link, Carol Ridgeway, Barbara L. Newman, Jean B. Anthony, Dot Leck, Gordon Smith, Kenneth

Baldwin, Diana Armstrong, Ann Harmon, Mary C. Conway, William I. Hamer, Nancy Watkins, Martha & Calvin Ivie, The Fourth Session, Barbara R. Gardsbane, Victoria Virginia Cipro, Larissa Fawn Barrington, Norma Riedman, Karen Halpin, Julia Escott, Scott T. Harmon, Laura Mason, Ludline & Bob Hodges, Kathleen Dunn, Encore Club of Arlington, Eva Dorman, John & Lannic Forbes, Vere P. Van Keuren, Jr.

Disability Conference

At the end of March, five HRA representatives attended a three-day conference in Dallas called "Understanding Texas Accessibility."

The conference, largely targeting businesses, building owners, architects and engineers, discussed enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This included panel discussions and presentations about issues in public barrier removal, differences between ADA and TAS; compliance responsibil-

ities of architects and building owners; new legislative efforts and HUD requirements for accessible residential and multi-family housing.

Board Member and Architect **Mike Love** served as moderator for several of the sessions on architectural design compliance. Mike is a registered planning reviewer and performs accessibility inspections for construction alterations.

Staff members **Dave Watson, Nellie Harrell, Jamie McCartney, and Terry Ridle** attended to promote HRA with a promotional booth for the duration of the conference. Mike Love provided booth space for HRA.

Speakers included John Hockenberry.

Correspondent on *Dateline NBC*; Kent Waldrep of the Kent Waldrep National Paralysis Foundation in Dallas and Marsha Mazz of the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board. Also

see Conference, page 2

Reeve's Daunting Challenge

viewpoint by **Tony Snow of Detroit News.**

Recently, helpers wheeled Christopher Reeve up a long ramp in a Washington hotel meeting room and then turned him deliberately and dramatically toward a throng of philanthropists. He squinted through the low-slung chandeliers, seemingly impassive, while the crowd rose to shower him with sustained applause.

His disability is an engrossing thing. Here is a guy crackling with vitality, an activist who erupts with passions and ideas, a performer who can summon laughter even as he wheezes out words and a director eager to take on a series of ambitious cinematic projects. He is all that and more - and he can't so much as scratch his nose.

Mr. Reeve was there to help the Parkinson's Action Network, which raises money to combat Parkinson's.

Mr. Reeve is getting impatient with talk of fate and inexorability. "In the next century," he predicts, "we will explore the frontiers of inner space." He argues that researchers have scratched and clawed their way to the verge of conquering diseases and injuries that not long ago seemed hopelessly catastrophic. He describes progress as if he were ordering a burger carry-out. All we need to do, he says,

See Reeve, page 2

IN MEMORY OF

JIM DOYLE



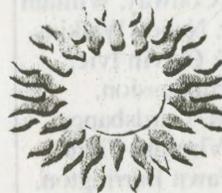
Conference, continued from page 1

present were representatives from the Department of Justice; the Access Board (authors of the ADA); members of HUD, the Texas Department of Licensing and Registration; and the Paralyzed Veterans of America, among others.

Celebration HRA

Plans for Celebration HRA are about to begin! As always, the success of our annual event will require the expertise of many volunteers. Let's divide the work! Committees are forming now. If you've got a little time each month to spend on a worthy cause, we need you. Please call Dave Watson at 817-469-1977 to volunteer.

Welcome to the HRA Board of Directors, Dr. Brian Smith! You will see more of him in the next newsletter.



Reeve, continued

is "pay for a cure."

He and longtime journalist Morton Kondracke and others have banded together in hopes of persuading Congress to mount a man-to-the-moon style effort to combat a long list of diseases and injuries and, through the liberal application of cash, produce "the cure to which we are all entitled."

When you think about it, he is reduced to banging a tin cup boldly. He and colleagues have finessed two key questions: Is government the only vehicle for salvation? What about hedging one's bet and cozying up with the world of commerce?

After all, government doesn't do customer service very well. Medical businesses, in contrast, make their money by producing cures for cash, along the lines Mr. Reeve suggested. That being the case, the self-described "disability community" might want to open a new front in the war against mortality. Make common cause with research firms or mutual funds that can direct substantial sums of money toward companies doing promising work.

One can't look at Mr. Reeve without hoping that researchers produce the miracles they seek. But one also hates to see them reduced to beggary before legislators who are more adept at cutting road construction deals than mulling over the mysteries of life.

For those, like Mr. Reeve, who refuse to become professional victims, the ultimate act of defiance may be to stop depending solely on Uncle Sam - who is a fickle partner at best - and start thinking about ways to befriend organizations whose survival depends on giving people what they actually want.

Bee Venom therapy for MS

The American Apitherapy Society now knows of 4,000 Americans who use bee venom to treat diseases, including MS, lupus, arthritis and chronic fatigue. Although the MS Association of America does not endorse the treatment, it gave a \$250,000 grant to Georgetown University to begin a study to determine if the venom is safe and nontoxic. There is some evidence that bee venom may work to stave off some of the effects of the disease, because its components affect both the neurological system and the immune system. For more information, visit the following websites: www.msaa.com; www.beesting.com; www.nmss.org; www.icanect.net/msf; and www.claims.org.

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UPDATING OUR "WALL OF
FAME"

HRA will soon offer a 401K retirement plan to all attendants and staff. The plan will allow each person to choose his or her desired level of investment (high risk/low risk); HRA will cover a portion of the costs. Anticipated roll-out is May 15. Keep your eyes and pockets peeled.

The HRA Board of Directors is also investigating opportunities to earn funds to offer employees full health benefits in the near future.

Expand your knowledge...

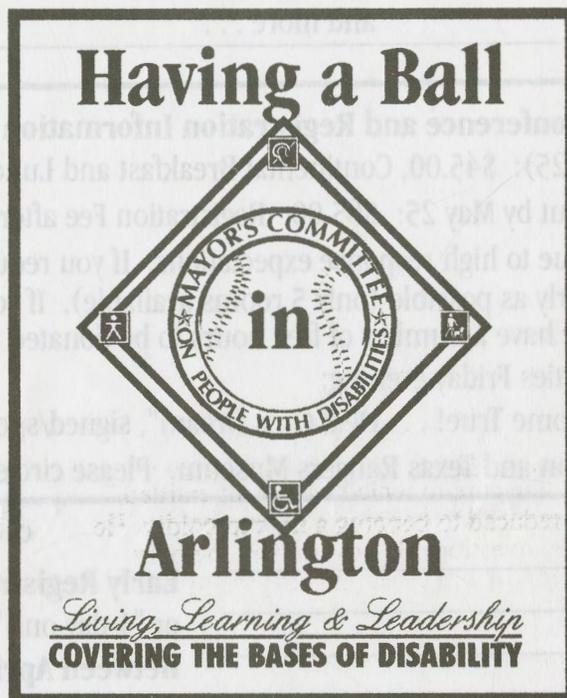
What in the world is Phyllophagous?

Koalas are phyllophagous, as well as giraffes, some types of fish, and caterpillars.

If you can answer this question, send an email to CKBrink@aol.com. We'll put your name in the newsletter and send you the HRA Prize of the Month!

**The Arlington Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities
Invites You to the
9th Annual TAMCC Leadership Conference
June 25 - 27, 1998**

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Conference Topics

Living - Fair Housing, Home of Your Own, Marketing Independent Housing, Accessible Remodeling
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Please complete and submit the registration form by April 25, 1998 to receive a \$30 savings, or
May 25, 1998 to receive a \$10 savings, and special priced 1 Day tickets available!

The Arlington Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities presents the
9th Annual TAMCC Leadership Conference

June 25 - 27, 1998

Arlington Hilton Hotel - E. Lamar Blvd @ Hwy 360, just north of I-30

Conference Topics

- Living** - Fair Housing, Home of Your Own, Marketing Independent Housing, Accessible Remodeling
Learning - Traveling with a Disability, Training on Disability Reporting, Return to Work & SSDI
Leadership - Successful Programs: Employment, Enrichment, ADA Compliance
and more . . .

Conference and Registration Information

- ◆ Early Registration Fee (by April 25): \$45.00, Continental Breakfast and Lunch for 2 days included.
 - ◆ Registration Fee after April 25 but by May 25: \$65.00. Registration Fee after May 25, \$75.00
 - ◆ Early registration encouraged due to high response expectations. If you require an accessible room at the Hilton Hotel, please register as early as possible (only 5 rooms available). If you need attendant care, please register as soon as possible, as we have a number of free hours to be donated to the earliest requests.
- We are offering two off-hotel activities Friday evening:
- ◆ A special play "Fairy Tales Do Come True! . . . Deaf Girls Dream", signed/spoken by deaf actors at UTA- or -
 - ◆ A trip to The Ballpark in Arlington and Texas Rangers Museum. Please circle your preference.

Circle your Registration Fee

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Early Registration \$45,
or "1 day only" ticket, \$25 _____
Between April 25 & May 25
\$65, or "1 day only" ticket, \$35 _____
Late Registration
After May 25, \$75,
or "1 day only" ticket, \$45 _____

(Note: "1 Day only" ticket is available for Friday, June 26,
but does not include food, only classes)

Total Registration Fee _____

Please indicate any accommodations you might need:

____ Accessible Transportation ____ Sign Interpreter ____ Lrg. Print ____ Braille ____ Other

Please Note: Accessible vans to be rented for a very reasonable fee. If you wish to have information on this option, please check box here If you wish Accessible Transportation from the Airport (DFW or Love Field), please underline which airport and check here We will be contacting you about your flight arrival and departure time so we may coordinate your travel from the airport to the hotel and vice-versa.

Please send this form, along with your check to:

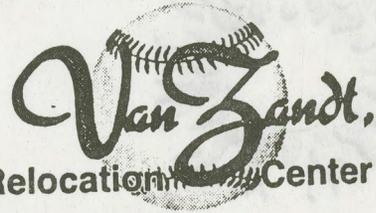
Arlington Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities, Attn: Lisa McCormick
City of Arlington, P.O. Box 231, Arlington, TX 76004-0231.
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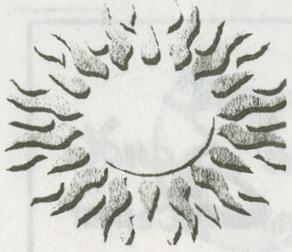
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