

# INCITEMENT INCITEMENT

Vol. 3, No. 1

A Publication of American Disabled for Accessible Public Transportation (ADAPT)

December/January 1986/87

## MOTOR CITY SHOWDOWN

### CIVIL RIGHTS COP OUT

One hundred and twenty five ADAPT members from across the USA gathered in Detroit for a week long protest against the American Public Transit Association, APTA, at their annual convention. APTA members had been scheduled to stay at the Days Inn (which served as home for the ADAPT members during our stay), but when APTA learned who would be sharing the roof they pulled out and hid within their black fortress, the Renaissance Center.

Mayor Coleman Young played into their oppressive game. Groups of three or more disabled persons appearing on the street would be considered a parade and since Young had ADAPT's parade permit revoked, those persons would be subject to arrest. (The Nazi Party had just been permitted to parade in Detroit.) As we arrived we saw local "rollers," as the cops called us on their radios, being hassled for being in the streets, although there were no curb cuts nearby providing access to the sidewalks. Tough Mayor Young was going to show those uppity cripples their place, and if a few other people's rights were abridged in the process it could not be helped, after all cripples all look alike. Not all Detroit residents felt as the Mayor did however. As four of us sat on a corner deciding where to get breakfast a trolley driver stopped beside us, climbed off his trolley and came over to shake our hands and wish us luck.

As we gathered in the meeting room, greeting dear friends whom we had not seen since the last ADAPT action a half a year ago, we learned Mayor Young's heavy hand had not stopped there. Not only was he going to try to prevent us from moving about the city streets; he did not want locals fraternizing with us. A hand delivered letter from Rosa Parks' administrative assistant arrived

at our hotel the same day we did. Ms. Parks (the first black person who refused to give up her seat on a bus for a white person, and the spark for much of the black civil rights movement) would not be able to participate in ADAPT's press conference because the letter explained, while she agreed with our goal, she could not condone our tactics. Months of negotiations down the drain. Rumor had it she had been told by the

October 3, 1986

ADAPT  
Atlantic Community Inc.  
Rev. Wade Blank  
Eastside Office  
4536 E. Colfax  
Denver, Colorado 80220

Dear Rev. Blank,

Mrs. Parks will not be participating in the press conference on October 5, 1986 at twelve noon for ADAPT because of the dramatic manner in which you choose to dramatize disabled Americans lack of access to public transportation. Mrs. Parks supports active peaceful protest of human rights issues not tactics that will embarrass the cities guest and cripple the cities present transportation system.

We do not wish any American to be discriminated against in transportation or any other form that reduces their equality and dignity however, we cannot condone disruption of Detroit city services.

Please excuse the sudden withdrawal from what we originally thought was a conference to present ADAPT's issues on equal rights for disabled Americans in public transportation to the City of Detroit. We wish you success in securing equal rights for all users of public transportation.

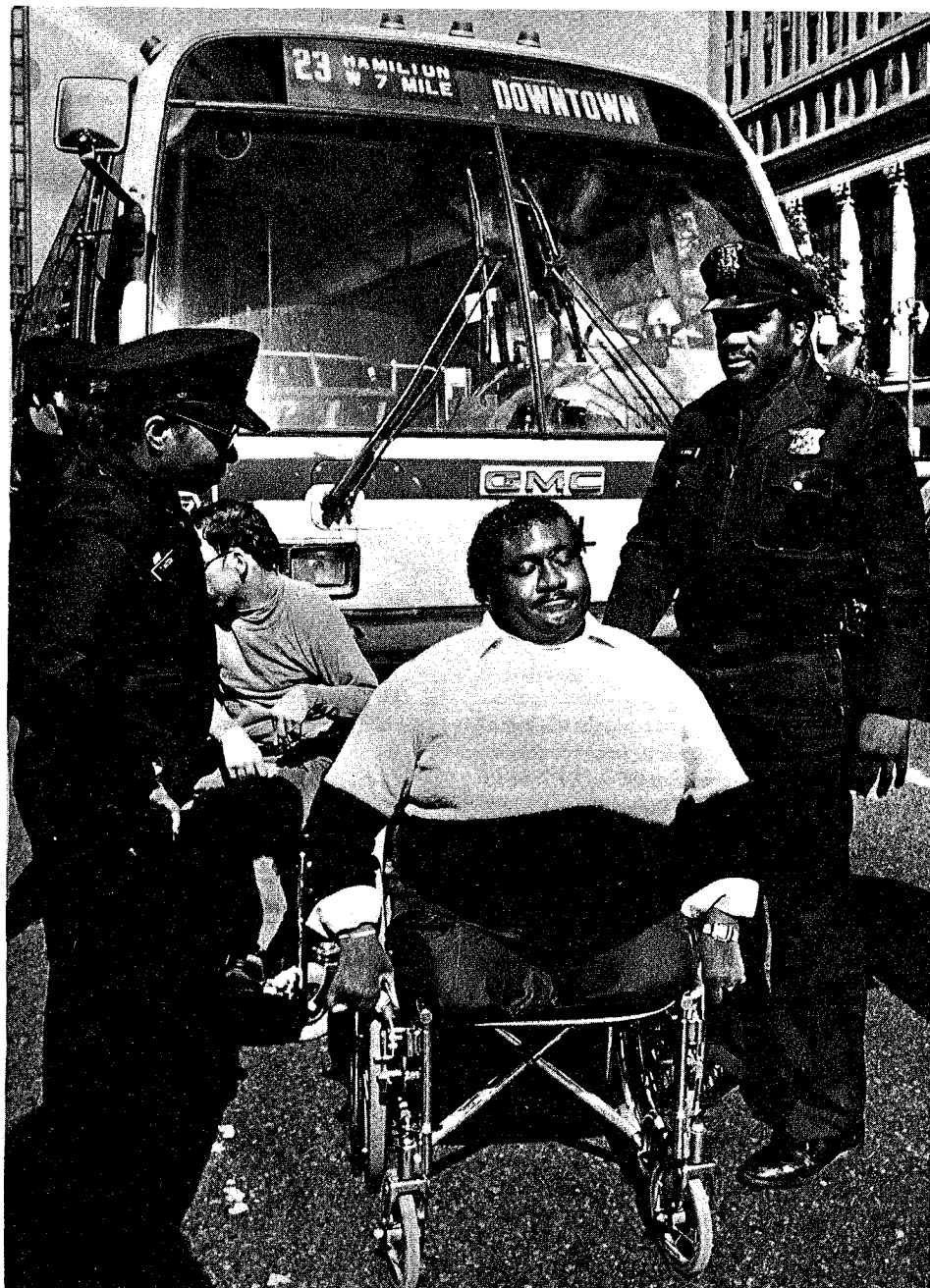
Very truly yours,  
*Elaine Steele*  
Elaine Steele,  
Assistant to Rosa L. Parks

Enc.

cc: Media and Press

Mayor she would not get the statue she wanted if she joined with ADAPT. It seemed the climb to equality for some would only be made by stepping in the faces of others.

As we discussed strategy for the week, disappointments about plans falling through were aired, but the group came to the consensus that our rights did not depend on approval from any other group or individual. We are equal human beings deserving equal rights, whether others choose to admit it or not.



### THE MARCH

Two and three at a time, we headed over to the corner of Rosa Parks Blvd. and Michigan Ave. on Sunday morning to begin the march Mayor Young seemed so afraid we would have. The decision had been made to have no arrests at this first event. Local support was with us as representatives of the local chapters of several unions and members of the All People's Congress joined us carrying huge banners calling for access and equality.

The cops were there in force also, "for our own safety" as they explained. Of course safety meant we use the shoddy sidewalks and New York style curb cuts (a forty five degree slope with a small curb at the bottom) despite the fact that one of our members had been taken to the hospital after cutting his chin open falling from his chair while trying to use one of these abominations on the way to the start of the march. Several other members fell out of their chairs along the parade route trying to use the safe Detroit curb cuts. At those curbs without cuts the cops formed a "protective barrier" with cars and bodies and mo-

torcycles steering us back onto the sidewalk at the earliest possible opportunity. The march stretched on for blocks as we slowly made our way toward the Renaissance Center.

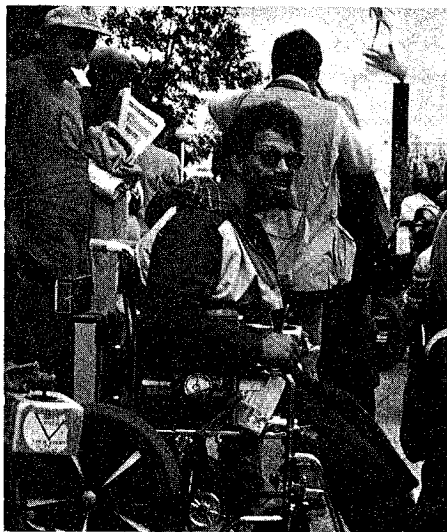
As we neared the gleaming black towers of the Center the tension rose. People chanted louder and stronger and the fatigue of the mile plus march and night of little sleep melted away as we drew closer. Cops moved up and down the line faster, obviously becoming more and more tense anticipating some dreadful activity APTA's PR people and month of advanced special training had hyped them into expecting. ADAPT members moved forward into the sidewalk area at the side entrance to the building, the designated "protest area," and three of ADAPT's members who are Reverends gave a Sunday sermon on human rights. Then we left.

### THE HIKE. . . ADAPT GOES TO APTA'S PARTY

ADAPT was not the only group that did not get to ride that day. APTA members were forced to take

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## Motor City

continued from page 1

a hike that evening when they attended a dinner party given for them at the Ford Museum in Dearborn. After leaving the Ren Cen (as it is called in Detroit), ADAPT members headed back to load up for the trip to Dearborn. Dividing into four teams to cover the four gates into the museum, ADAPT literally surrounded the museum grounds. Some unfortunate couple was having their wedding reception inside; and so, with the help of the Dearborn police, ADAPT checked wedding invitations and let those guests in. However APTA members were forced to walk. A secret entrance into the compound from the Ford plant next door afforded more private parking for their tour buses, but APTA members had to hike a quarter mile in the cold drizzle to get to their "gala" event. As evening came ADAPT members could see the APTA party goers through the windows. No one stopped us as we went inside the gates and up to the inaccessible front door. (What is it with APTA that they always go to inaccessible or barely accessible locations?)

Several ADAPT members, cold and tired from the long day and standing in the biting wind and drizzle, headed back to the vans only to find APTA had ordered us locked inside the museum grounds. Since there was nowhere to go to get out of what was now a full fledged freezing rain, we increased our protests. Inside by the soft flow of candle light APTA members sipped their drinks, murmured small talk and were fed by cooks in starched, white uniforms and tall chef's caps. But they moved away as ADAPT members using aluminum cans and stretching as far as possible to reach

the high windows tapped on the glass and chanted loudly "access is a civil right." A door which had not been properly closed came open and several ADAPT members tried to enter the hall. The blaring alarm filled the night and echoed in the halls of the museum. Security guards threw one woman out of her wheelchair onto the ground in their over zealous attempts to protect their clientele, the party goers. After a bit of a struggle the door was closed, but APTA members had been snuck out the back to safety, and the front gates had been unlocked so ADAPT members could leave also.

SEMTA, Southeastern Michigan Transit Authority, serving the suburban area around Detroit, offered ADAPT members a ride home on their accessible buses. The lifts worked easily, and it turned out to be one of the only accessible bus rides ADAPT members took while in Michigan, although MI is one of the two states with a state law specifically guaranteeing access to disabled persons on state funded public vehicles. Since Mayor Young is such an enemy of access he has made sure the Detroit city buses bought with non-state dollars did not have lifts. (Detroit is served by two transit systems. SEMPTA is the regional transit system, and DOT is another system which just serves the city.)



### A VISIT TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Monday morning ADAPT was busy at it again. Since Mayor Young seemed so opposed to ADAPT and our goals we thought it would be a good idea to visit him in his office and see if we might be able to find out what he found so objectionable about us riding the same buses as everyone else. So we headed over to his office where we were met by a platoon of Detroit's finest decked out in black with riot gear on hand. Filming through the police outside and in the lobby, 50 ADAPT members took the elevators upstairs and lined the sides of the hallway outside his office. Despite constant rumors the elevators had been shut off, group after group arrived until the hall was full.

Unfortunately the Mayor was over at the APTA convention at the time we arrived. He was listening to a presentation given by Ed Bradley, of CBS's *60 Minutes*, on Mr. Bradley's recent trip to South Africa. Mr. Bradley had been cited in the paper that morning as saying he could not support ADAPT after "investigating the group and its tactics." Yet there he was talking to APTA and the Mayor about apartheid. It struck ADAPT members as just a little two faced.

After all what greater issue of discrimination faces the transit industry today than that of segregated inferior transit for a group of people based solely on physical characteristics, systematically sought and promoted by a monopolizing association and sanctioned by our federal government?

### A TICKET TO RIDE?

Although Mayor Young remained at the convention, eventually through his spokesperson he said disabled people had a right to ride the buses and used the old economic justification to explain his city's policy of segregation. ADAPT thought the word of the Mayor was pretty good ammunition, so we went out to ride. At one location, the police parked their cars in the bus stop, making a pick up impossible and threatening to arrest anyone who went into the street to try and ride. Since the buses would not stop when we tried to hail them from the sidewalk behind the police, we eventually went into the street, not to stop the buses, but to hail them. They only swerved away however. Finally an out of service bus came by to try and get rid of us. An APTA member we had seen boarding across the street got off, pretending to be a disgruntled passenger. The driver

which a national professional organization and a whole city were encouraging.

Others in the group were having different luck. We saw police start to arrest Arthur Campbell; but as an angry crowd of passers-by gathered and he explained with his lap board communication sys-



tem that he simply wanted to ride the bus, four of them lifted him on in his electric wheelchair, since there was no lift, and they took off together. Later we found out that he had been arrested. We saw people who have never stopped a bus before stopping inaccessible buses. Strangers joined our chants and picket lines. People on their way to lunch stopped to learn what was happening. There was a strange tension in the air.

All in all 17 people were arrested that day. Some had crawled on buses, some had blocked the doors to buses which were not accessible, others had blocked the inaccessible buses' paths. Sixteen of the 17 were processed and released on personal recognizance bonds; one woman was held because she refused to give her name and other information. (She was released the next day.)

### AND JUSTICE FOR ALL? NO ACCESS TO THE FEDS

Tuesday, ADAPT members thought, would be a quiet day. We would try and visit Michigan's Senator Regal who sits on the Federal Senate Transportation Committee and try and discuss the issue of lack of access with him. Once again we were met by Detroit's men and women in black, as well as the federal police. The ratio outside the Federal Building



### Editor: ADAPT Collective

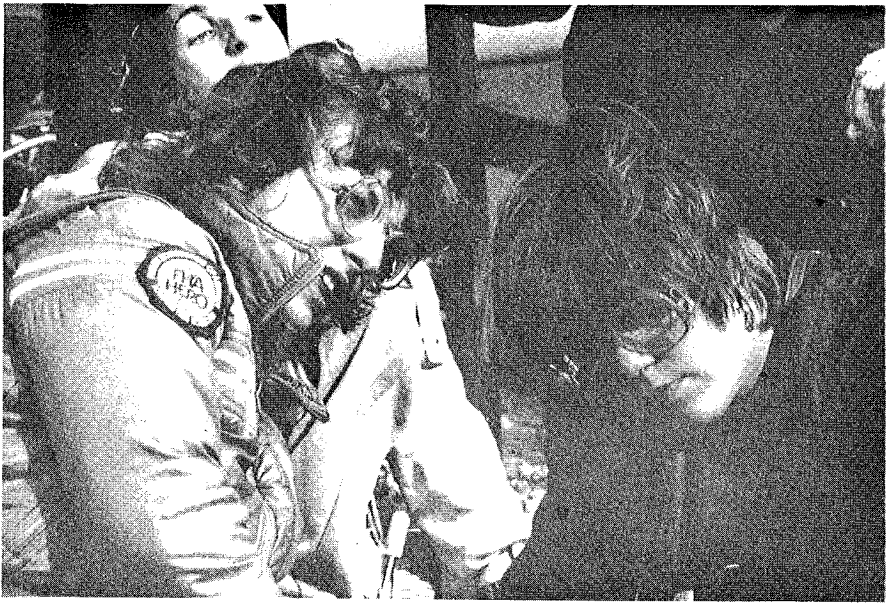
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was probably near to one on one: cops to ADAPT folks. Senator Regal had to hear about the issue of lack of access through the grapevine or on the news that night, because the cops would not let us get near the entrance ways. Construction blocked most of the front of the federal building and we were pushed to the side by police who refused us entrance even to the lobby. Disabled federal employees were hassled as they tried to go about their business.

Police began arresting ADAPT members within minutes of our arriving and being denied entrance. There seemed to be no rhyme nor reason to it. Some of us were pushed to the side or told to move time after time. Some were grabbed sitting further off than others who were not arrested, and shoved into the paddy wagons. One woman who had been sitting off to the side was told she was under arrest. Clutching her Bible and tears rolling down her cheeks, she repeated again and again, "I was not doing anything." Others tried to intervene on her behalf, but were arrested themselves for "obstructing justice." The more timid among us grew angrier and moved up to take the place of those who were being carried off. By the end, 32 people were arrested. The disabled people were taken to the police gym, non-disabled people were taken to various other jails.

#### THE POLICE GYM

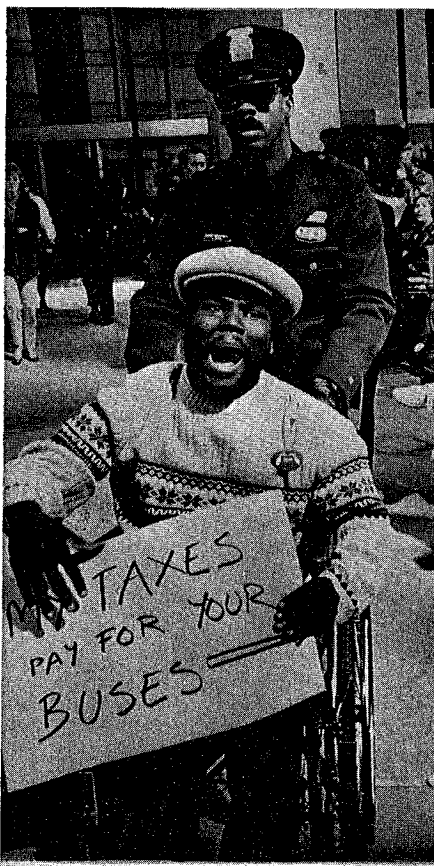
The gym is an old building, a huge open almost empty room in a second floor over a garage. We were taken upstairs in one of those hand-operated open-sided elevators. The bathrooms were completely inaccessible, but planning ahead they had brought an accessible port-a-john into the parking area below. Everyone was ticketed, finger printed and slowly processed. A gigantic tarp covered most of the wooden floor, at the far end of the room were mats and weight lifting equipment, at the near end lockers and a stairwell up to a banked track encircling the room above our heads. Voices echoed in the chilly, cavernous space. Finally, several police carried an old desk to one end of the gym; the judge was coming. When he emerged from the locker room after changing into his robes, the cops had lined their folding chairs in a group at one side of the gym. We were all sitting in our chairs on the other side of the gym. Everyone was charged with the same thing and all the first offenders were let out on their personal bond. Those who had been arrested the day before were assessed at \$1,000 cash bonds.

#### A MID-NIGHT VIGIL

After several hours of checking and re-checking the status of those still in jail we found the non-disabled persons were to be kept in jail until their initial hearing. The thirteen disabled people who had been arrested twice were going to be kept sitting up in the gym.

The jail's infirmary did not have the necessary medications and equipment for some of those arrested. As we marched down to the police building, the 70 plus who had come became angrier and angrier that our people were being kept sitting up, in a cold gym, because our voices and our presence were deemed such a threat to the well-being of a tough city like Detroit. What had their month of special training covered? The non-disabled members of our group were being treated differently, because they were perceived as the instigators. Did they really believe we were incapable of action without these individuals?

The gym was right along side the police headquarters. Across the street was one of the jails. When we reached the spot we strung ourselves out surrounding the building. We began chanting "let our people go", "set them free", alternating from one chant to the other as the hours crept by. The police guarded the doors to their headquarters and the entrance to the ramp. From time to time faces would appear in the windows above and look down on our line



outside. Voices grew hoarse, but we would not give up. People shared thermos bottles of coffee and hunched into their coats and blankets to keep warm, but the energy level was high.

Inside the gym, people were needing their medications and catheters, etc. It was getting cold as several of the gym windows were broken. One guard brought them candy bars, chips and crackers, but other guards tried to play mind games. Edith began to have problems because of her diabetes. Then one guard began a list of medications, another brought up a three course meal. Finally Reverend Willie and our attorney were allowed in. Eventually they heard us chanting outside and were told to move away from the windows. The guards began discussing ADAPT's cause. After more negotiations our lawyer told those inside the judge had said they could go if they agreed not to protest disruptively anymore, but they refused to leave unless the same treatment was offered to our non-disabled members. The judge agreed and the pre-arrest trial was set for the next day.



Outside we began to realize those inside were going to be let out. The energy surged. Someone started making up new chants and then suddenly everyone rushed to the door as our people began emerging. Everyone was celebrating and even some of the officers joined in. Someone had a copy of the Wednesday morning *Detroit Free Press* with a beautiful article by Susan Watson and photo essay by Manny Crisostomo supporting ADAPT and our cause.

#### PAPER DELIVERY

Like the pony express or Genghis Kahn's warriors we rushed through the empty streets of downtown Detroit to deliver the paper to APTA. Police escorted us although it really was not necessary. At 3 a.m. we were almost the only people stirring. Arriving in intermittent spurts, this time because of our varying routes of traveling, we congregated in our "designated protest area" outside the Renaissance Center. Our messenger was allowed inside to deliver the paper, and then in a flash we were all gone, rushing

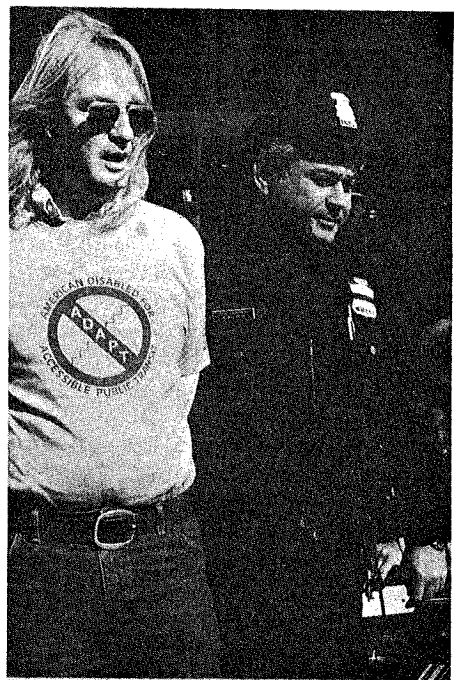


home to grab a couple of hours sleep before morning.

#### A FINAL MARCH TO COURT AND THEN TO SAY SEE YOU LATER TO APTA

The court date was set for 9 a.m. that morning. Still running on the last traces of our adrenaline, we arrived at the court and were searched before going upstairs. The halls were not empty, but we filled them as we arrived, elevator load by elevator load. Although almost all the benches were empty, the courtroom itself was too small for us all to fit, since all the furniture was fixed in place. People had to address the court from where they were, since it was impossible to maneuver in the aisles. (Again and again we see how unprepared our society is for groups of us.) Some of the people in the hall took our numbers as some kind of protest, instead of friends coming to support one another. Court dates were set and probation arrangements made.

As a final touch we headed over to the Renaissance Center after we were through at court. Standing in our "designated protest area" once again we sang APTA a goodbye song to the tune of "Good Night Ladies" and then headed on our way, vowing to see them again in Phoenix in April.



## RESOLUTION

Reaffirming Support for Accessible Bus Service

- Whereas, The SEMTA Board of Directors and staff have historically supported the concept of a 100% accessible bus system; and
- Whereas, By 1988 it is expected that the entire SEMTA fleet will be equipped for wheelchair users; and
- Whereas, The ability to ride a public transit vehicle is a civil right that should not be denied to any individual; now therefor be it
- Resolved, That the Board of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority does hereby reaffirm its support for mandating that all public transit system buses be accessible; and further
- Resolved, That Albert A. Martin, the General Manager of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority is authorized to send a copy of this resolution to the Michigan Congressional Delegation and the Executive Board of the American Public Transportation Association.

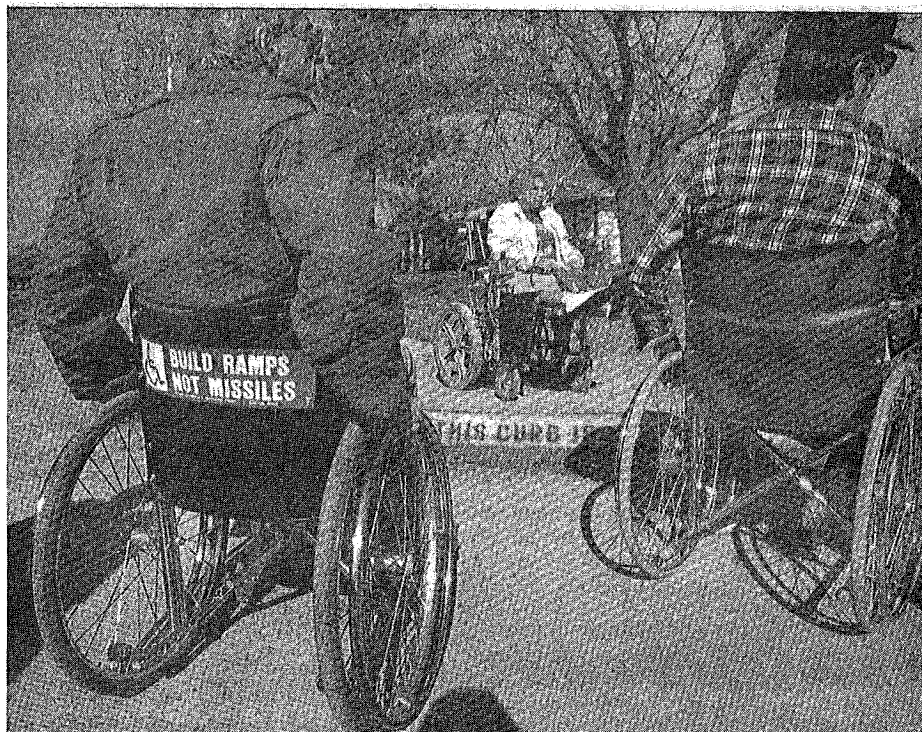
## CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly qualified Board Secretary of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority certifies the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Board of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority held on September 16, 1986

September 16, 1986  
Date

Beverly A. Moynis  
Board Secretary

No. FY-87-16



## Dynamics of Organizing

by Shel Trapp

It has always been a conviction of mine that a good organizer needs anger. An organizer's anger is always smoldering under the surface and bursts into flame when set off by injustice or oppression or a rip-off. As one organizer said to me, "I don't know why, but I just wake up angry." To me that is a pretty healthy stance in life for anyone who works for social change. Recently I had two experiences which got me thinking about anger.

A local organization had asked me to assist them in interviewing prospective candidates for an organizing position. One candidate, when asked "What makes you angry?" responded that anger was not an emotion he felt to be acceptable and therefore he tried never to allow himself to be angry. The candidate was then presented with the following situation: "You go into a public housing apartment and find an overflowing toilet, which the tenants tell you has been that way for a week. The tenant has called the maintenance crew every day for a week and even went downtown to the head of the housing authority to report it in person and nothing has happened. What would you do?" The response was, "Well, being a very caring person, I would pray that the maintenance people would quickly come to fix the toilet."

Now I have nothing against prayer, in fact being a Chicago sports fan, I'm very familiar with prayer. But it does not seem to me to be the most effective way to get a public housing authority to respond to a tenant's need. Needless to say that candidate did not get the job.

The second incident occurred when I was interviewing a college student who wanted to come and do an internship with NTIC. After we talked about the possibilities for an intern and what NTIC did, I asked, "What do you want to get out of this experience?" She thought for sometime and then responded: "I'm so angry about everything, homeless people, poverty, hunger, the arms race. I'm full of this anger, but it's not

focused and I know that unless I get it focused I'm just going to end up frustrated and ineffective. So what I want out of this is for you to help me focus my anger." That was a very exciting response. She didn't want help curbing her anger, or controlling it, or managing it, but focusing it so she could be effective. With an attitude like that, I think her life is going to have quite an impact on things as they are.

My conviction is that not only is it difficult if not impossible to be a good organizer without anger, it is difficult if not impossible to be a caring person without anger. People who care without having focused anger, focused at those who have the power to change the situation, will change nothing. For it is the anger, not the caring alone, that gives us the energy to organize for social change.

Many meetings I attended have opened with prayer. But then the leadership has taken their caring into action through focused anger, directed at someone who could change the situation with which the organization was dealing. Caring by itself is not enough, anger by itself is not enough, but focused anger leads to effectiveness and victory for our organizations.

From DISCLOSURE, Nov.-Dec. 1986, the National Training and Information Center (NTIC).



Nipping Another One in the Bud. . .

## ADAPT Acts and Eastern Backs Off

ADAPT recently brought Eastern Airlines back to their senses. With the threat of a series of nation-wide actions in over 12 cities, ADAPT's activists persuaded Eastern Airlines to abandon their policy of not carrying wet cell batteries for motorized wheelchairs. ADAPT announced protests were scheduled for airports in Denver, CO; Albuquerque, NM; Atlanta, GA; Buffalo, NY; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Los Angeles, CA; Louisville, KY; Miami, FL; Savannah, GA and Washington, D.C., and was able to open a dialog and air their concerns. After several days of discussion, and as the date of the protests drew closer, Eastern officials informed ADAPT that the airline would begin accepting wet cell batteries.

The official statement, from Eastern Spokesperson Glenn Parsons, went as follows: "Eastern Airlines has long been a proponent of assisting the handicapped and in adjusting our policies to accommodate their special needs. In view of recent discussions with representatives of ADAPT. . . eff. Dec. 15, Eastern will accept wet cell battery operated wheelchairs for transportation. The battery must be removed and stored separately from the wheelchair in a leak proof container containing sufficient absorbent material to absorb any battery acid spillage." Parsons stated "We now recognize that these (disabled people's) needs can be accommodated while addressing the safety issues."

November 21st protests turned into victory celebrations across the nation. Donna Smith, who was at Denver's Stapleton Airport with

about 30 other ADAPT protesters, was quoted in the *Rocky Mountain News*: "I'm very proud we made our point." The *Atlanta Journal Weekend* quoted Mark Johnson: "In two weeks we've been able to pull 12 cities together and force Eastern to change their policy. We're very, very proud. . . We just wanted the same access as non-disabled people, . . . our wheelchairs are like our legs. To deny us the right to transport the power for our legs is like taking our legs."

Often airlines will misinterpret the FAA regulations for transporting hazardous materials and use this misinterpretation as a basis for not carrying wet cell batteries. According to disability rights advocates the FAA regulations do not forbid carrying wet cell batteries. Instead, they state that if wet cell batteries are carried, they should be carried in a safe manner. The new Eastern regulations cover this requirement.

The ADAPT actions represent another successful example of the "walk tall and carry a big stick" approach to negotiating with the powers that be.





# Thoughts About Joseph for the New Year

by Stephanie Thomas

I am not a very religious person, certainly not a big Christian. But it is kind of hard to miss Christmas here in the USA. So this season got me thinking from a new point of view and at the risk of offending the more devout among my readers, I wanted to share some of these thoughts with you.

As Americans we tend to focus on the star of an event. A movie star, the President, the outspoken leader of a group like Winnie Mandela or Desmond Tutu, Eleanor Smeal, (President of the NOW National Organization of Women), Mick Jagger, Captain Kirk. These are the people we pay attention to and these are the people we identify with.

In the Nativity scenes all over town the Christ Child is the center of attention, with Mary a close second. But there is another person there too, Joseph. He was the one who helped find the stable they were able to stay in. He probably delivered the baby. He helped keep things from getting out of hand when all the visitors came, and he got "his" family to safety when all the little boys were being massacred. Of course the religious importance of Christ and Mary in the Christian tradition

is not disputable. But Joseph played a critical role as well.

Only a few can be stars. However, this is where Americans lose their perspective, because all too often we see the star role as the only important role. There are many critical roles to be played and although many if not most are not in the limelight they are as important if not more important than the star role. You cannot be a leader if there is no one following you. You cannot get a group to do something unless someone (or several someones) have let them know what to do. An event will rarely get media coverage unless someone contacts the media. Someone has to ask for donations, and someone has to give the money to pay for transportation (attendant care, food, etc.) for the event, which in turn has to be arranged for and provided. You get the idea.

I think this is a very hard thing to remember. But I think it is very important that we try and value people in all roles and value ourselves in the roles we play, whether or not we are the star. It is going to take a lot of us working together to make the changes we want.



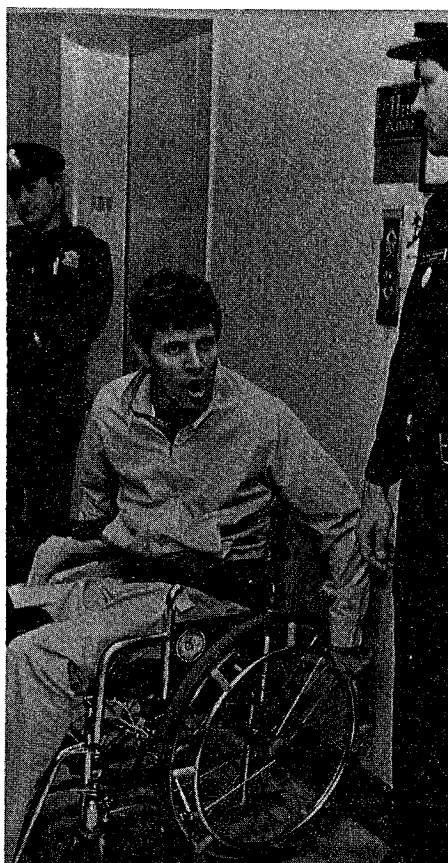
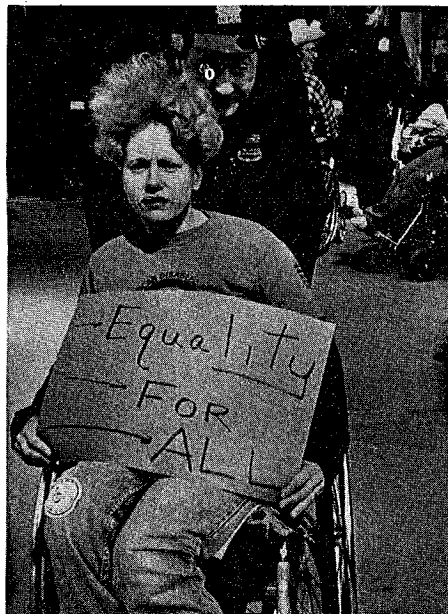
# A New Year's Wish

by Stephanie Thomas

## SPEAK OUT!

Fight back  
In large numbers  
Fight back  
We can't make it alone  
Fight back  
In large numbers  
Together we can make a safe home.

-Holly Near



(This is a chorus from a women's rights song about stopping the violence against women, especially in the streets at night.)

I for one am tired. I just want to take some time to try and figure out how you cook decent tasting food, listen to some music, meet my neighbors, read a ton of books, find out what kind of town I live in, play with my cats, write my friends a letter reminding them who I am.

But I'm not going to stop fighting yet. My wish for 1987 is that this is the year the voice of our outrage at the oppression of ourselves and all disabled people reaches a roar, and that the roar of our anger is so loud that it begins to crumble the foundations of this oppression. That it is so loud the frozen status quo attitudes of most disabled people are shaken into some kind of flexible state. When people start thinking it will stop seeming crazy and terroristic for us, as disabled people, to want the same access to our communities as everyone else.

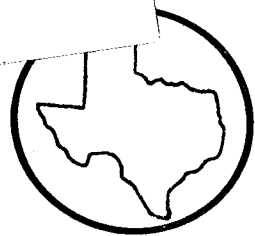
I am a "be nice" kind of person. I grew up thinking it was not nice to make a scene, that it was best to be better than they were by turning the other cheek. But I only have so many cheeks. Just what is so nice about pissing on myself because I cannot find an accessible bathroom in a mall with hundreds of stores and restaurants? What is so nice about having to look up into eyes that fill with hate when I say I want to ride the bus? What is so nice about having to travel across town to get to the grocery store with check-out aisles I can fit through? What is so nice about arguing with my friend about going to his favorite restaurant because I have been dropped one too many times to feel safe being carried inside? What is so nice about learning

that several babies with a disability similar to my own are so worthless that they are killed ("allowed to die") because some medical researcher wanted to test a quality of life rule that decides who gets to live and who gets to die? What is so nice about my friend being told she cannot go on her Christmas vacation because her "legs", her motorized wheelchair, is too much trouble for the airline? What is so nice about having to beg someone to get the postmaster to come outside to sell me stamps because there are stairs to the front door? What is so nice about being threatened with arrest because a cop sees me in the street and demands I get on the sidewalk even though there are no curb cuts (and he doesn't even know if there are or aren't any on the next block?) And as you know, this list could go on for a long time.

**There is NOTHING nice about these things.**

There is nothing nice about these things. These things should not even be acceptable, but somehow to many people they are. So we have to fight back, we have to fight back in large numbers because together we can make a difference, together we can make a safe home. Let's start yelling. **HAPPY NEW YEAR**





# Around The State

## Austin

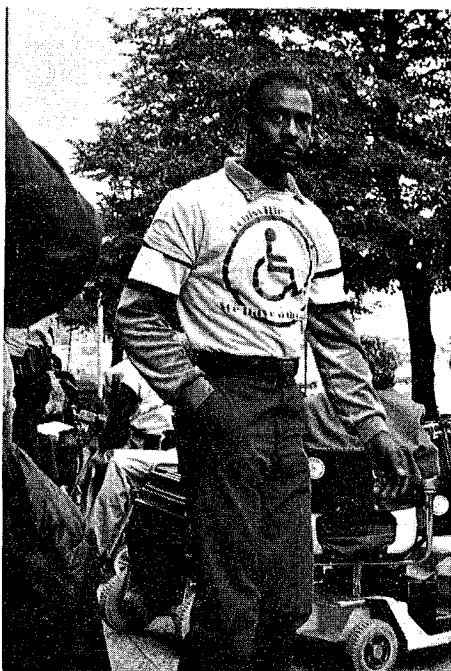
After several discussions with Capital Metro Board and staff and a 7 hour picket outside their downtown offices, ADAPT has extracted a promise from the Board that Capital Metro will better implement their mainline accessible buses. Added to the fleet last summer were 100 new lift equipped buses, which brought the fleet to 60% accessibility. However, almost no notice of the new system access was given. In addition the accessible buses were added to the system in a haphazard manner, so that would be riders using wheelchairs were never sure when to expect a lift equipped bus, even on a route designated as accessible. January 1987 is cited as the date that 30 minute access in the downtown area will be implemented. 1986 also saw the orders given for twenty 30 foot buses and nine trolleys all with lifts.

More studies have been promised. One will look at origin-destination for disabled and elderly community members. The other will look at development of a mainline accessibility education program. The board has also promised to consider several forms of incentives in promoting mainline service.

Perhaps the most significant news of the Austin transit scene is that Capital Metro Director Alan Wulkan has been asked to resign and will be gone by the end of March. Wulkan has long been resistant to mainline access, so his leaving may bring about a significant improvement in mainline service, depending on who is hired to replace him.

## Dallas

ADAPT's new office in Dallas has been extremely active in their first few months of operation. Their presence has stirred renewed interest in several local transit activists, ADAPT has called Dallas administrators to the carpet in taking control of a transit system run amok. Meetings with the Presbyterian Church officials have led to a new interest from the local Presbytery and commitment from a regional inter-faith task force to begin addressing ADAPT's issues of access to the community for disabled people. In addition this local interest has been transmitted to the national level with a commitment from the national Presbytery to address the issues of access, starting with a letter to Elizabeth Dole (see letter in the next issue of *Incitement*.)



ADAPT of Dallas has also been active in the streets. A recent action protesting illegal curb cuts received much press coverage and local support. New sidewalks and curbs were installed in the Dallas suburb of Irving, but no effort was made to put in curb-cuts, although this was new construction. This has been an ongoing issue for local disabled residents; so ADAPT took the city to task stenciling "This is an illegal curb" and the no access symbol (wheelchair in a circle with a slash across the middle).

## Fort Worth

The lawsuit filed against Fort Worth's transit authority continues. Legal Aide, which was handling the suit, will be turning over the case to the attorney, Elsa Nava, who was originally hand-

ing the case. Texas PVA has been asked to take over expenses and their board will be voting on it in the near future.

## San Antonio

San Antonio is the only Texas city *Incitement* Editors are aware of which has had their public hearings on their implementation plan for the new 504 regulations. Their plans differ little from current service, and although local disability advocates have expressed distress over the poor service, it seems little will change. San Antonio remains a good target for another ADAPT action considering their shoddy treatment of their disabled ridership. Another factor adding to the attractiveness of San Antonio is that APTA's new President, Reba Malone, lives there.

## Incitement Needs Your Input Wish You'd See An Article You Don't See?

*Incitement* is written and edited entirely by volunteers who unfortunately have to do other things as well. We need your input. We need your information, pictures, cartoons, articles, etc. We cannot promise we will include everything we receive, but we do promise to do our best. Even if you do not have the time, or do not want to write an article about something happening in your area, we can use your information. If you send us clippings, pictures, flyers, etc. . . well you might be surprised what we can write an article from. And pictures do not have to be perfect by any means. Although it is better if we can get a black and white print, we sometimes use color prints, sometimes newspaper photos cut out of the paper. (We have a wizard of a typesetter/printer.) So don't be bashful. We need your info on transit issues and on disability rights activism!!!

## Money Makes The World Go Around, The World Go Around. . .

Of course many would argue with the title of this article, but money does help. *Incitement* is written and edited by volunteers. Our typesetting is for all intents and purposes donated. Our circulation has topped 1200 readers, and that's a lot of paper and a lot of postage. *Incitement* is free to our readers for two reasons. One is that we want anyone interested to be able to find out what is going on with ADAPT and our issues. The other is that we have been able to get a grant from the Live Oak Fund to help pay for putting this newsletter together, and to keep the Texas network together. But the grant will not last forever.

If you enjoy reading *Incitement*, if you want to help support our efforts, your contributions are very welcome. *Incitement* is produced by ADAPT of Texas and checks should be made out to that name. Our address is on the mailing space on the outside of each issue.

To those of you who have contributed already, and those who have sent letters, thank you for your support!

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