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SPECIAL EDITION

INCITEMENT INCITEMENT

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Special Atlanta Issue 1990

LET OUR PEOPLE GO

If you can't get out of bed how can you exercise your newly won civil rights? The ADA has passed and we should celebrate this victory, but for many folks it's going to take a little more. For many people with disabilities attendant services is a critical part of independence, productivity, and all that good stuff. Talk with three ADAPT members and you are bound to hear three references to attendant services, as well as at least one story relating to personal experiences with a nursing home, or state institution. The stories are not happy memories, and are often compared with the jail stays which many ADAPT members have experienced. (Frank McCollm, a founder of Atlantis and long time ADAPT activist, tells of being beaten with a sock full of soap shavings; soap shavings don't leave a mark so nothing can be proven later.) The rage, and fear, in response to these experiences runs deep but is never far away. It is also very contagious.

The Atlantis Community, from which ADAPT originally sprung, was created fifteen years ago in response to the crying need for community based attendant services. George Roberts, Debbie Tracey, Larry Ruiz, Terry Fowler, Bobby Simpson, Donna Smith, and Judy Anderson were among a group of younger adults with disabilities who liberated themselves with the help of Wade Blank and a group of other ex-nursing home staff. Working together they created Atlantis. Many of the original Atlantis folks were able to bring a civil rights law suit against the institutions which had held them captive for so long, and from their settlements were able to become home owners. (The story is now being produced as a made for TV movie.) Their experiences also resulted in their commitment to work for the civil rights of their brothers and sisters.

The struggle to escape or avoid institutions is hardly unique to Denver, however. At the trials in DC for the wheels of Justice action many stories were told. Rick James moved to Salt Lake City from Montana searching for a way to live in his own place in the community and

(continues next page...)



Tom Malone, Mark Johnson, and Bobby Simpson are among the many ADAPT members lining up for the action in Atlanta. Photo: Tom Olin

Atlanta Action

*ALL ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE
THROUGH DENVER ADAPT : 303/936-1110

YOU MUST Arrive: Saturday September 29th 1990
Depart: Thursday October 4th (after noon)
Where : Ramada Hotel Capitol Plaza
450 Capitol Plaza Atlanta GA 30312 404/688-1900 *

Cost: 4 people per room - \$19 per person
3/room \$26 each 2/room \$38 each 1/room \$75
You are on your own for meals
If you need attendant services call Denver
To be picked up at the airport call Denver with your
airline, flight time and flight number
Wheelchair repair available on Sunday

SEE ATLANTA- SULLIVAN ARTICLE P.3 FOR DETAILS

Keep checking your mailbox! The next regular issue of **Incitement** will be on it's way to you soon!
The issue will include:

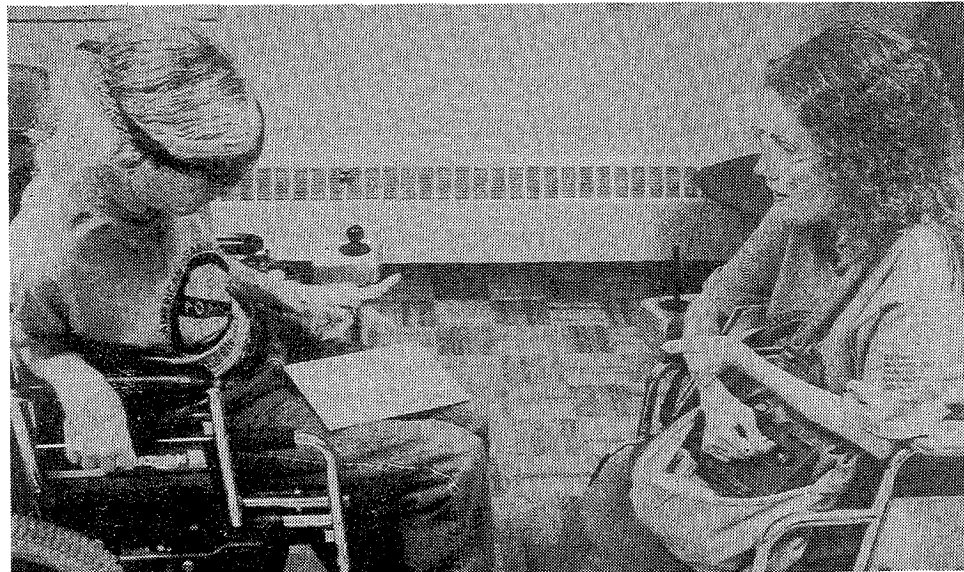
- * News of our many actions Around the Nation: Movie theaters, ferries, human service budgets, gambling ships, APTA, the list goes on...
- * Update on ADA: It's passage and what's next
- * Great activism resources like the *National Disability Action Center's* legal help, and a great new magazine *The Mouth* ... for people with brains.

... AND A LOT MORE ...

Let Our People Go *(Continued from p.1)*

not have to move to a nursing home. Cassie James of Philadelphia and Wayne Spahn of Austin told the DC Judge of the pressure their parents received to "put them away." Chris Hronis of California, James Templeton and Victor Ramirez of Austin, Claude Holcomb of Connecticut and others fought for years to get out of the state institutions in which they had been "placed". Often it took court battles, but they finally made it. As Claude put it "it was the beginning of my life at [age] 22."

Many others have been stuck at home, threatened with institutionalization, either now or in the future. Arthur Campbell spent his first 40 years in the back room of his parents' Kentucky home. It was the attendant services issue and organizing training which gave him his first taste of what he could do.



Arthur Campbell and Diane Coleman discuss strategy at the Denver meeting. Photo: Tom Olin

When the euphemisms are cleared away it becomes abundantly clear that we are talking about is whole segments of our community, the disability community, being incarcerated. What is the heinous crime for which they receive these life sentences? Having a disability which requires that they have assistance with things like: dressing, eating, going to the toilet, bathing, house cleaning, etc. By using names like nursing HOMES, state HOSPITALS, state SCHOOLS, etc. we are glossing over the reality. No one is lining up to live in these "homes". No one graduates from these "schools".

You could probably pave the entire state of Rhode Island with all the studies, testimony, letters and reports which show that the services in the community, in the disabled person's home, are the choice of people with disabilities, their families, friends and even many professionals. (Fortunately these reports, etc. are slowly decomposing on office shelves all across the nation, so we won't have to cope with too much toxic waste in one place at one time. We could probably fund a pretty great attendant services program if someone would organize a recycling campaign of all that paper!) Community based services are the buzz words of the '90s, as they were of the '80s. Yet, despite all the grand statements, plans and goals, billions of dollars continue to pour into institution based services while a tiny fraction trickle into the community services we say we all want.

The phrase "the bottom line" comes from accounting for a reason. In our country's efforts to meet this need, a multibillion dollar industry has developed. In 1987 \$41.6 billion dollars were spent on nursing homes alone. Far from being consumers of these services, people with disabilities have become the commodity, and corporations are making mega bucks off of us. High dollar lobbyists, like the American Health Care Association work hard to ensure the community based service recommendations remain high ideals, but far from the flow of dollars.

ADAPT feels the time has come to put an end to this farce. Never again should a person with a disability be forced to exist for the rest of their days being warehoused so some fat cat can jet to Hawaii for a professional conference with workshops like "10 quick ways to reduce your stress level." Never again should a family be forced to incarcerate their loved one because some state agency head can't be bothered to scan the hundred studies they have paid consultants to write. Never again should a person with a disability choose to die because "lack of funding" has led to "no community based options"... ie. no attendant services where they are needed. Enough is enough. It's time to put our money where our mouth is !!!

LET OUR PEOPLE GO!

ADAPT.

Becomes

ADAPT

Fresh from our recent transportation victories, ADAPT met in Denver July 2nd and 3rd to discuss what should come next. The response (at this meeting, as well as many local meetings and conversations across the nation) was pretty overwhelming: attendant services was the way to go.

Then came the question of our name. ADAPT - American Disabled for Accessible Public Transit (or Transportation depending on who you talk to and what phase the moon is in) had served us well, but it seemed a little too specific for our future efforts. After much discussion, it seemed the simplest thing to do was, as usual, the wisest thing too. By changing our name to the word ADAPT we retain our identity, stay flexible, and save a lot of re-educating hassles trying to memorize a new string of words.

Some local groups may decide on acronyms of their own and everyone agreed that's cool. Heaven forbid we become predictable or consistent!

ADA INVITATIONS

ADAPT members who received invitations to the White House Signing of the ADA may wonder how they got on the invitation list. It could not have come from much higher authority. Evan Kemp, Chairperson of the US EEOC called on behalf of the White House and requested the entire list so invitations could be sent personally to each ADAPT member, recognizing the power, commitment and contributions of ADAPT.

ADAPT'S DEMANDS FOR A NATIONAL ATTENDANT SERVICES PROGRAM

(as adopted in Denver CO, July 3, 1990)

People with disabilities have a civil and human right to dependable attendant services that meet our daily needs in the location and manner of our choice. Access to these services must include the following components:

1. Available based on functional needs, not medical diagnosis or type of disability.
2. Available regardless of age or family status.
3. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with provisions for back-up and emergency services.
4. Enabling people with disabilities to have maximum control of their attendant services.
5. Allowing people with disabilities choices in the employer/employee relationship, to include receipt of funds directly or through a service provider.
6. Available on a cost-sharing basis, when appropriate, so that services are not a disincentive to employment.

The federal government must develop, in cooperation with ADAPT, national policies and funding to provide attendant services to people with disabilities.



Photo: Tom Olin

ADAPT to meet with HHS Secretary Sullivan Atlanta Action Training Planned

ADAPT will begin its new campaign for attendant services in Atlanta this September 28th through October 4th. Break open your piggy bank because we need you with us. This promises to be the start of another historic chapter in the disability rights movement.

Plan to arrive Saturday Sept. 28th. If you want to be part of the action you must attend Sunday's Strategy Session and Seminar. The infamous Shel Trapp, of the National Training and Information Center in Chicago, will join us for a training in activism and discussion of ADAPT's new issue. Monday we'll put into motion the issues and concepts developed on Sunday. The action continues on through Wednesday. Plan to leave after noon Thursday October 4th. We will be staying at the Ramada Hotel Capitol Plaza, but **YOU MUST MAKE YOUR ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH WADE OR MIKE IN DENVER: 303/936-1110**. Atlanta folks have already started preparations, and those who were with us last fall will remember the excellent job they did then.

ADAPT has already written to Louis Sullivan, Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services - HHS, and to Dr. Paul Willging, Executive Vice President of the American Health Care Association - AHCA, demanding they meet with us in Atlanta. Sullivan & HHS control the national funding for institutions, nursing homes and community based attendant services. AHCA is the national professional association (the APTA) of the nursing home industry, which is also branching into group homes.



Shel Trapp helped cut the issues and design strategy when ADAPT members met in Denver in July. Trapp will be with us in Atlanta too. Photo Tom Olin.

We provide necessary care. We provide adequate care. But we don't provide - for lack of a better word - Cadillac care. That is true. That is a fact." -- Comm. Aaron Johnson, GA Dept. of Medical Assistance

"...if you want to talk about Cadillacs, let's talk about the \$250 a day - that's \$90,000 a year - that the nursing home in Ohio was paid to lock Mr. McAfee up. For that kind of money, he could have certainly lived independently and had the control over his life that he values." - Paul Longmore, Disability Rights Activists

Source: Nightline December 28, 1989

Thousands of people with disabilities are locked away in institutions and nursing homes, or are trapped at home without options. For thousands of others the possibility of being locked away in a nursing home or other institution is an everyday fear. More and more of our people are choosing to die rather than exist in one of these places.

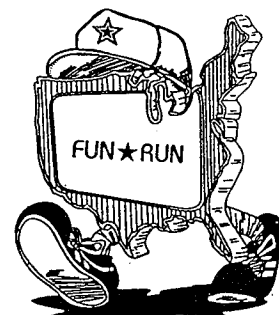
According to the World Institute on Disability and other sources, 7.7 million people need help from someone else to accomplish the everyday tasks of living. In 1987 \$41.6 billion was spent on nursing homes. Almost \$18 billion of that was your taxes. If we counted money for all the other kinds of institutions the dollars would jump even higher.

In fact many people with disabilities are dying because of lack of community based services. Some are dying from abuse or neglect, others from despair. Larry McAfee is only one of the most famous in an increasing string of people with disabilities, who are getting overwhelming support in their choice to die rather than be warehoused because of their need for support services. Aside from family, the only people speaking out against this atrocity are disability rights activists. Georgia's Department of Medical Assistance Commissioner Arron Johnson characterized the activist's call for independent living and attendant services for McAfee as "Cadillac care." Are we seeing Gillstrap II here?

It's time to take a stand. As the chant puts it: **THE PEOPLE UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED**. Be there when ADAPT returns to Atlanta to begin our next campaign!

HEY -- WADE!
YOU'RE GOING THE
WRONG WAY!

Fun ★ Run



BE A DISABILITY RIGHTS SUPPORTER!

Reverend Wade Blank, co-founder of the Atlantis Community

and ADAPT, says he - and a lot of other

Atlantis/ADAPT supporters - will run,

walk, roll, or whatever it takes to

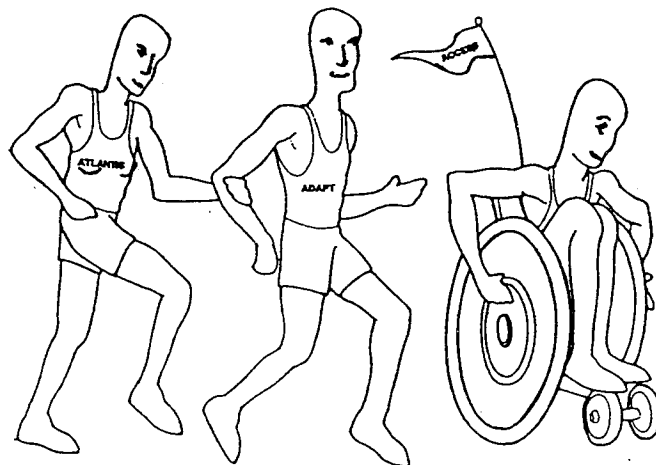
get around a 1/4 mile track

for an hour. Wade is still

banking on doing 20 laps in the

Second Annual Run for Independence!

Not bad for an old civil rights activist.



Your pledge, selected from the amounts listed below, will help ADAPT continue the struggle for the civil rights of persons with disabilities. Just select an amount from those listed below and fill out the sponsor section. After Wade does his laps we will send you a bill. Your contribution is tax-deductible!

Thanks for your support!

Please check the amount of your pledge:

- ☐ \$50.00 per lap—You need the fun. ADAPT needs the funds. And I need the deduction.
- ☐ \$25.00 per lap—If you have trained, my bank account will be drained.
- ☐ \$10.00 per lap—Activists like you are rare. Supporting your run is only fair.
- ☐ \$5.00 per lap—Here's fuel for your struggle, my cash flow I'll juggle.
- ☐ \$2.00 per lap—TWO run or not TWO run; TWO many questions!
- ☐ \$1.00 per lap—For every lap a buck, and I wish you "Good Luck."
- ☐ \$.50 per lap—I support disability rights, keep up the good fight.
- ☐ Any Amount—This is a great and worthy event. Make my donation of \$ _____

Send the sponsor
form to:

FUN ★ RUN.
ATLANTIS/ADAPT
3005 WEST GILL PLACE
DENVER, COLORADO 80219

SPONSOR FORM

SPONSOR'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

FUN RUNNER # _____

1003



NOPE... I'M HEADING
FOR ATLANTA!