



Photo: Tom Olin

ATLANTIS COMMUNITY INC.
ADAPT/ Incitement
1208 Marshall Lane
Austin, TX 78703

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"As in so many past experiences, our hopes have been blasted and the shadow of deep disappointment settled upon us. We have no alternative except to prepare for direct action, whereby we would present our very bodies as a means of laying our case before the conscience of the local and the national community.... The purpose of direct action is to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr
letter from the Birmingham jail

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INCITEMENT INCITEMENT INCITEMENT

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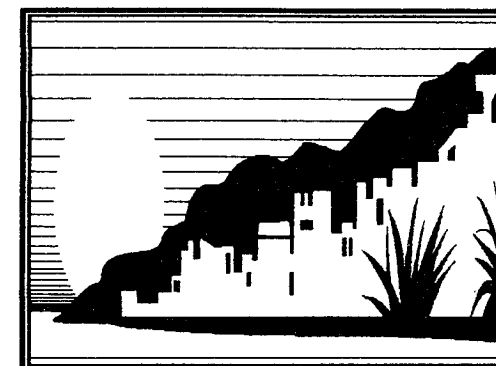
June 1991

UNHEALTH AND INHUMAN SERVICES ATTACKED

The 17,000 employees of Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) and Social Security felt what the lives of people in nursing homes are like when ADAPT shut down all 34 entrances to their central administration buildings in Baltimore on Monday, April 29. Marching down Security Blvd at 11:00 am, 300 disability activists moved in on the Social Security complex with its many acres of wooded areas and parking lots. Starting with only the entrances of HCFA, which the police had locked and guarded, ADAPT soon streamed around back, blocking every door. No one was coming in or out.

People had come from across the nation to join in this important demonstration, ready for whatever might be in store. The result was one of the tightest and strongest series of demonstrations ADAPT has ever done. The message was simple: ADAPT wants to meet with Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan. We will not permit business to go on as usual, while thousands of our brothers and sisters are forced by this

... CONTINUES, P.2



FANTASIA... ... ADAPT STYLE

The Annual Convention of the American Health Care Association (AHCA) is scheduled for October 6th to the 10th at the Orlando Convention Center, in Orlando FL. Elizabeth Dole (Red Cross President and former DOT Secretary) and Willard Scott (host NBC Today show) will be featured speakers at the AHCA Convention. Another surprising and different feature (for AHCA members) will be a series of demonstrations by ADAPT. Could there be any significance to AHCA picking the home town of Mickey Mouse and Goofy? You'll find out, but only if you join us for this important event. ADAPT folks should plan to arrive October 4th, and leave on October 10th. For more information, contact:

Wade, Robin or Mike
ADAPT national office
12 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203
303/733-9324



Bernard Baker leads the march on Social Security. Photo: Tom Olin

(Note: new address and phone)



ADAPT took the front door to HCFA. Photo: Tom Olin

Baltimore, continued from p.1

Department's policies to remain locked away in nursing homes and institutions.

Police, wearing bullet proof vests, tried intimidation: marching in formation, standing at attention and staring down protesters. Social Security staff coming back from lunch milled around in the parking lot. Around 2:30 the police moved in, clearing a few doors so workers could start to leave. Some were supportive, others frustrated. Union representatives came to lend support ADAPT.

At 3:00 pm ADAPT pulled off the Social Security building. Moving down to Security Blvd. (a six lane divided street) ADAPT took over a major intersection for four hours. Police re-routed traffic which was blocked up to Interstate 70. ADAPT continued chanting "WE WANT SULLIVAN" and "UP WITH ATTENDANT SERVICES DOWN WITH NURSING HOMES" until 6:30 when we marched back to our motel, just up the street. Rainy, cold weather had not put a damper on the opening action.

ADAPT's second day of actions was another success. Around 3:00 pm ADAPT again marched over to the

Social Security complex. Instead of going back to the main buildings as they expect, however, we turned into a driveway across the road. Our target was the Disability Determination building, which had only one way in or out. Our blockade was like a cork in a bottle.

City, county, state and federal police swarmed the area. They even circled overhead in helicopters, as did the TV reporters. More and more cop cars and buses kept arriving, but no one could figure out what to do. ADAPT's show of force intimidated them from arresting: where would they put 200 of us? It was clear by now that although ADAPT was aggressive and determined, we were not violent, and had no intention of hurting anyone. When they pulled out the latex gloves and bags of plastic handcuffs, it seemed they had finally decided to arrest us. But ADAPT countered by climbing, and being helped from our chairs and lying on the ground.

Workers piled up in the parking lot as swing shifts successively let out from work. About 4,000 cars in the parking lot had no way out. Finally, driving back and forth across the narrowest part of the grassy embankment surrounding the rest of the complex, the cops constructed ADAPT Road (as we dubbed it). Witnesses said the line of cars was something to see. At 7:00 pm, 80% of the cars had gone, so ADAPT formed up and marched out, proud of another successful action!

Wednesday, day three, ADAPT headed for the belly of the beast, the offices of the Health and Human Services Administration. Gail Wilensky, head of Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA, which funds Medicaid) held a press conference to announce last year's morbidity (death) rate among Medicaid funded nursing homes and hospitals. ADAPT had a few announcements of our own to make.

Lining up in front of the building, ADAPT activist began chanting loudly and angrily "WE WANT SULLIVAN!" This time it was DC's finest standing guard. As chants got more passionate, activists rolled forward. Some climbed down from their chairs to crawl through the police cars parked to block our passage. Police rushed to reinforce the cars, using their legs to keep the crawlers out.

... Continued, p.10

HUEY AND DEWEY ARE LOOKING FOR LOUIE ON THE TRAIL OF DR. S.

Even though Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan tries to keep his schedule of public appearances under tight wraps, ADAPT picked up his scent a few times recently. Although the good doctor is too busy to meet with ADAPT to discuss his incarceration of close to two million people with disabilities in nursing "homes", he found time to speak to a fundraising luncheon at the Drake Hotel in Chicago May 14th. Chicago ADAPT found out at the last minute and, true to form, staged a protest. Secret Service men kept Sullivan hidden away, but a parking lot attendant, overhearing ADAPT's protests, tipped ADAPT off as to where Sullivan's car was waiting. Rene Luna and Mike Ervin just hung around the grey Lincoln, until Sullivan would wait no longer, and heckled him as his "goons" and some Chicago cops hurried him into the car. The driver zoomed out of the parking area, only to be bogged down in traffic. Mike zoomed up after them and pounded on the car. Cutting across the entire street, the driver wisked around a corner only to be trapped by a traffic light and a snarl of cars. Like a fury from hell, Ervin was beside the car again, this time right by Sullivan's window, so he was certain Sullivan got ADAPT's message before the light changed.

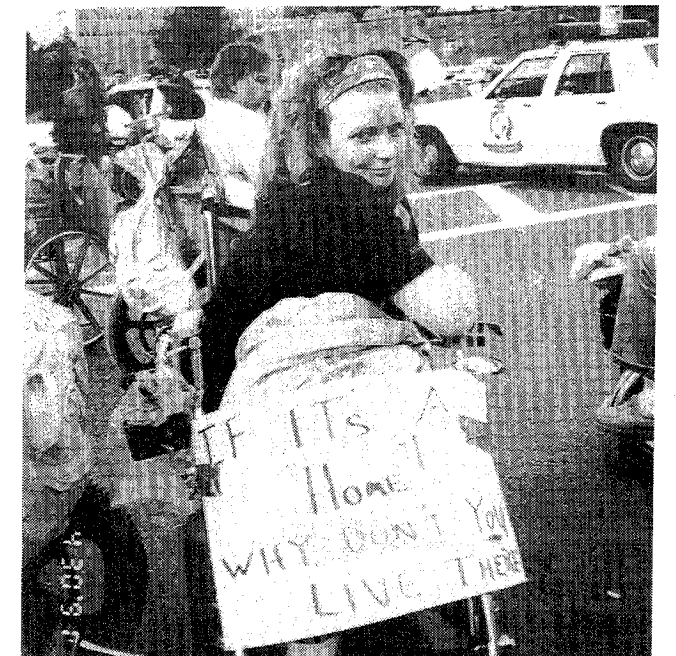
May 22nd, at the Annual Conference of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities in Dallas, ADAPT struck again. Over 2,000 "Wanted Poster" flyers with Sullivan's picture were passed out, to be sure conference participants were aware of the issue. ADAPT members and many supporters (about 40 all told) lined up along the front row where Sullivan was to speak. Each held a sign which read "Meet with ADAPT" and gave a different date in June, July and August 1991.

Before the session ADAPT began chanting "UP WITH ATTENDANT SERVICES, DOWN WITH NURSING HOMES" and "FREE OUR PEOPLE NOW". When the session started ADAPT went silent, as planned, chanting only briefly between speakers. Finally the time came for Sullivan to speak. His handlers brought him out from backstage to a lukewarm reception from the audience. He began his talk, and slowly and silently,

one by one, ADAPT members dropped to the floor and began crawling toward his podium, waving the proposed meeting dates in the air. Though he tried to ignore us, Sullivan stumbled over his words several times. In the end, a sea of bodies lay on the floor before him, twenty or more proposed meeting dates waving in the air.

June 11th offers another chance to "get Sullivan" in DC when he speaks to a legislative conference of the American Health Care Association (AHCA) the nursing home lobby group.

Why is Sullivan hiding from ADAPT? It's obvious from all the time he spends at the gala affairs of more high dollar groups, he's not afraid of speaking to big groups. Maybe he just likes to lecture, and he doesn't know how to listen. Whatever the reason, you can see there is lots going on around the country and in your neighborhood. Please call Mike, Robin or Wade with ideas, questions, or just to check in. Their phone number is 303/733-9324.



At Woodlawn & Social Security Blvd. Photo: Gary Bosworth

WHAT'S INSIDE ...

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ADAPT IMPACTS ADA DOT REGS

by Robin Stephens

When the Department of Transportation (DOT) decided to convene an advisory committee to assist with the new ADA regulations, they knew they had to invite ADAPT. A majority of the new regulations deal with paratransit. Since new fixed route buses were required to have lifts a month after the ADA became law, DOT already had developed one part of their ADA regulations last fall.

The Committee, composed of transit officials and disability groups, met in late January to discuss some of the more controversial issues the regulations would cover. Before the meeting disability members met. Since everyone was very skeptical about the process, the group decide not to say much and let transit "duke it out." The disability members continued to caucus throughout the meeting to assure agreement among us (we didn't want in-fighting.)

At one point when I, as the ADAPT representative, made a point, the APTA representative agreed. The group laughed, "This is a first: APTA agrees with ADAPT!" ADAPT has made a difference.

The two day meeting raised more issues than it solved. The proposed regulations were release at the end of March and the public comment period ended June 3. The Advisory Committee meets June 19 to 22 to review public comment and give input into the final regulations which must be published July 26, 1991.

EDITORS NOTE: Anyone who has reviewed these regulations cannot miss ADAPT's impact. DOT goes back to basics and includes provisions like: access features (lifts, loud speaker systems, braille signage, etc.) must be maintained in good working order. My personal favorite is the requirement that access features must be used. Clearly the caucusing by the disability members of the advisory committee is paying off, and even the government is wising up to the tricks of the transit trade.

AHCA TO VOTE ON ADAPT's RESOLUTION

As you may recall from the last issue of *Incitement*, ADAPT's protest against the American Health Care Association (AHCA) conference in Utah resulted in AHCA Director Paul Willging promising the Executive Board of Directors would meet with a delegation from ADAPT, and vote on whatever resolution ADAPT put before them. That meeting has been set for June 12th in Washington DC. You know the resolution we will put forward. It should be a busy visit to DC (hey weren't we just in DC?) with the Sullivan protest on the 11th, and who knows what other activities popping up.

FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE POLICE



Found at the ADAPT action.

THROW AWAY SOCIETY HAS GONE TOO FAR

Across the US a trend is growing, reports Gannett News Service. More and more families are delivering older relatives to hospital emergency rooms, and then abandoning them. Families literally sneak out of the hospital or refuse to take them home. Dr. Robert Anzinger, immediate past president of the American College of Emergency Physicians estimates 100,000 to 200,000 people are dumped each year. One Tampa doctor said dumping has been a trend for five years, but it has jumped significantly in the last two. Most of those who are dumped are women, many are mentally impaired, and most are poor. Usually these individuals are not sick, so they end up in board and care homes or nursing homes. Families who leave these people say they cannot deal with them anymore. Anzinger predicts the trend will only keep growing and spreading. The census shows the fastest growing segment of the population is people over age 65.

REACTIONS TO THE ISSUE

Since ADAPT took on the issue of redirecting federal funds from nursing homes to community based attendant services, the response has been tremendous. In early April, syndicated disability-issues columnist Dianne Piastro ran an article on ADAPT's new issue. Here are excerpts from the letters ADAPT received following that article:

My husband and I have been married twenty seven years. A little over ten of those years he's been ... a quad. I've been fighting putting [him] in a "home" for ten years but with the way things are going we may have no choice.

Needless to say, we can't afford a "home" so we will have to divorce... [He] would be placed in a state run institution which I find deplorable!

What a great country we live in! A country which forces married couples to divorce in order to survive.

I want to be part of the campaign to make community based attendant services a reality.
- St. Louis, MO

As the mother of a 32 year-old son who is in the head injured wing of a nursing home, I am very interested in being a part of your campaign. I have written to my state representative... Bless you for your support and interest
- Denver, CO

When my late husband, a disabled WW2 veteran was threatened with nursing home care, he chose to die. I could no longer care for him at home due to my rheumatoid arthritis.

Now must I chose to die at 68 because of flare ups of this "beast" (disease)? If I had occasional help in my home when the "beast" attacks, I feel I could be of useful effort...
- Anoka, MN

Currently I am being cared for by a wonderful, dedicated cousin. While I need full time care because of Muscular Dystrophy, I have had the opportunity to be "independent" because of this care. For the past ten years, I risked being a kept citizen and worked full time from a home office. This meant NO medical coverage, but independence was worth more.

Until my condition worsened last year, we were managing. Now, however, I had to go on disability in order to qualify for Medicaid... Because a relative is involved NO agency will help pay for him to care for me.
- Overland, MO

My husband and I both have Multiple Sclerosis... We were recently married. Neither of us can work.... We have seen first hand what a loving home environment can do for a chronic illness - & what negative effects a nursing home can have. How can we help?"
- St. Louis Park, MN

"As a concerned citizen, I have interest in your cause. I also have a personal interest - my mother suffers from a multiple sclerosis type disease and may soon require more care than my father can provide...."

- Manchester, MO

I have a two year old son who has been tested as having Sickle Cell Anemia. I worked for the first six months after being told of his illness. In the span of time I worked he went to the hospital twice, had an ear infection and two pain attacks ... Then I decided I should stay home.... Since I've been home he's only been in the hospital once, no ear infection, no pain attacks, no swelling (can be very painful) of the joints. He has picked up weight and he seems to have improved in all aspects of his life. With such a drastic change in his health I see staying at home is the best for him. Because he's my child and he comes first But the main problem of me being home and not working is financial. - Detroit, MI

I'm a 66 years and not disabled but do not want nursing home care if in the future I can function at home with some assistance. - St Clair Shores, MI

Bert Breuer of Baltimore even sent an article he wrote for another newspaper (an excerpt):

"I'm an escapee from a nursing home.

"After spending more than a decade bouncing from one of these old age prisons to the next, I finally decided that I'd had enough. I figured that I'd paid my "nursing home dues", as a wheelchair confined paraplegic in his late '60s, and I wanted a better life.

"I'd seen all I wanted of the senior citizen gulag. After living in half-a-dozen of these warehouses for the elderly, I had gradually realized that all of them were the same: they were run for the convenience of the staff. The service was usually awful, and the food was usually worse...

"What I hated most was the military atmosphere ..."

TRUE NURSING HOME HORROR STORIES OF RESIDENTS

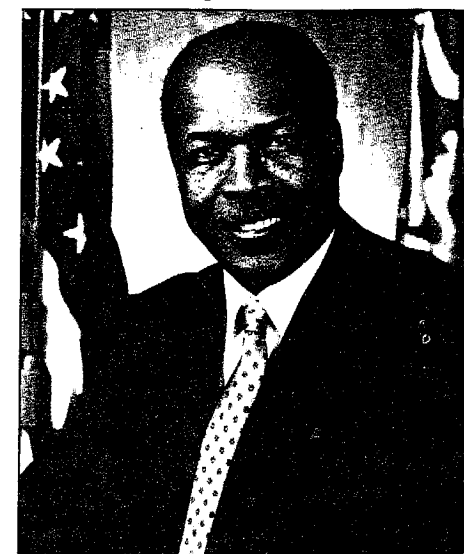
Collected by Peggy Noble

One day Bill came to visit Betty. This was before I knew him as well as I do now. Betty and I had a phone in our room. The three of us were just talking, and I got a phone call. I was on the phone quite awhile. Bill was sitting on Betty's bed. One of the aides, who knew no English at all, came in and started to take off my clothes for bed. I have the phone in one hand and Bill sitting there. As much as the three of us asked her to stop, she kept trying to get my top off. Finally I had to cut my phone call short, and go get one of the other aids to get her out of the room.

A friend of ours who is still in the nursing home was on her way back to the home by Medicar from the dentist....And she fell over in the chair. Instead of taking her to the hospital, the driver took her back to the home bleeding from the nose, mouth, and arm. Her doctor happened to be at the home when she got there. After checking her over, he said she was alright. Finally after three days of not getting any better, they sent her to the hospital. She had two broken hips, and was in the hospital for two months.

WANTED

Dr. Louis Sullivan, Secretary of Health and Human Services



FOR CRIMES AGAINST PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

CHARGES:

- 1) Needless incarceration in nursing homes
- 2) Forced internment and warehousing in State "Schools" and other institutions.

Sullivan refuses to meet with ADAPT to discuss redirecting funds from institutional programs to a national, community-based attendant services program, which would be consumer controlled. Why is Sullivan hiding? Surely he knows consumers and experts agree segregating people with disabilities in institutions is out-dated, unhealthy, and in-humane. Who is he trying to protect? We must spend our federal money wisely, to promote independence and opportunity. We must stop wasting people's lives! So why is Sullivan hiding?

For more information contact:

ADAPT
12 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203
303/733-9324



RETHINKING THE WHOLE SYSTEM

by Bob Kafka

Passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act has recharged the pursuit of a new vision for the delivery of services to people with disabilities. This effort is being focused on the Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act because of the importance of employment to the independence of people with disabilities.

"Directions" is a cross-disability, functional needs look at the supports that will enable people with disabilities to live independently. Developed from a national leadership summit meeting held in Washington D.C. January 1991, the main thrust of this paper is that the present vocational rehabilitation system is not working. People with disabilities are arbitrarily put into the categories of "feasible" or "non-feasible". These categories determine what services each person is or is not eligible for. The current system does not empower the individual, nor does it emphasize self-determination. It tends to discriminate against people with mental disabilities, yet does not work well for people with physical disabilities either.

The logical extension of a functional criteria in the Rehabilitation Act reauthorization is a functional definition of our whole service system. This means we must, as part of the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act, commit to changing our Developmental Disabilities Act as well as the options in the Medicaid system.

Some of the things that could occur under a functionally based service system:

1) Planning Councils on Developmental Disabilities could change to Planning Councils on Disabilities. It makes little sense to have Councils that only plan for people with developmental disabilities when all our philosophical writings talk about the needs of people with disabilities. These Councils would help guide the difficult transition from our convoluted and fragmented Medicaid system to a functionally based one. State Independent Living Councils, which presently have no funding and little power, could become a

ADAPT of Texas and Incitement
are *moving...*



our new address will be:
1339 Lamar Square Blvd. Suite B
Austin, TX 78704
512/442-0252 512/442-0522 fax

standing committee of these Planning Councils. Planning Councils could become independent entities through which Independent Living money, as well as their current program funding, would flow. This would allow IL to become independent of vocational rehabilitation agencies, but maintain a federal - state - local connection in each state. These Planning Councils might also evolve into the Independent Case Management entity in each state.

2) The Protection and Advocacy System would become the P&A for all persons with disabilities. P&A boards should consist of a majority of people who use their services.

3) Last but not least, the most difficult issue to address: Our fragmented Medicaid system should be combined into a functionally driven program based on meeting the service needs of each individual in order for him or her to be as independent as possible. Eligibility for services would no longer be based on disability or age. The Personal Care option, ICF-MR option, Medicaid waivers and other Medicaid options would be combined to fund such a system.

There is much discussion about creating a National Personal Assistance Program in our country. At the heart of these discussions is the need for services delivered on the basis of functional need. If discussion is to be more than rhetoric, we must commit to looking at the whole service system. Looking only at the Rehab Act pits physically disabled people against mentally disabled people in a battle for scarce resources.



Buttons, buttons and more buttons, from the Alliance. \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00. 45 selections in all, with messages like: Avoid Freud, civil disobedience is civil defense, hire a maniac ... they work like crazy, don't mourn organize, I am a shameless agitator, lobotomies for republicans ... It's the law, Of all the things I've ever lost I miss my mind the most, shrink resistant, we are everywhere, why be normal, ... and many more. To order your buttons (or for a complete list) send check or money order to:

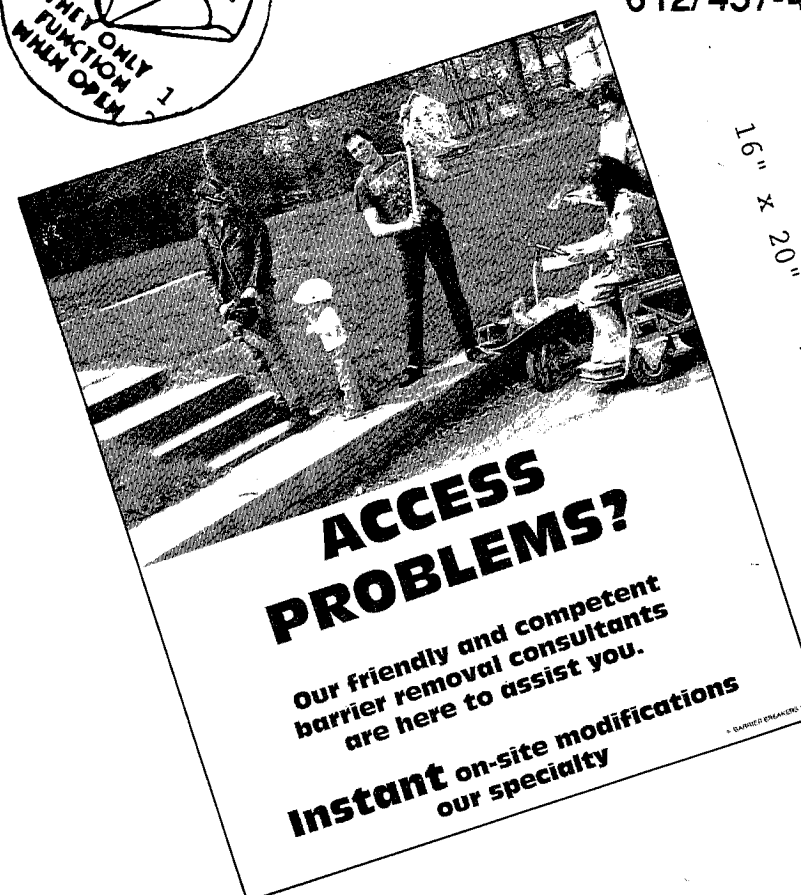
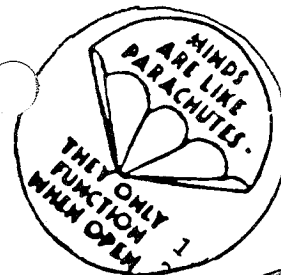


The Alliance
826 Euclid Ave
Syracuse, NY 13210



Looking for a new touch for the home, office or other hang out? Barrier Breakers (c/o Barbara Bradford) has a set of posters with a nice disability rights edge to them. Also available: A Consumers Guide To Getting Services And Equipment for the State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency by Using the Appeals Process. First in a series this manual costs \$10 (plus \$1.50 mailing costs.) To order your poster(s) send check or MO for total, plus \$2.00 per order mailing to:

Barrier Breakers
515 Third St
South ST Paul, MN 55075
612/457-4138

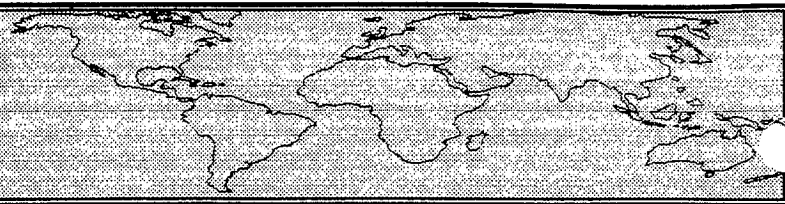


16" x 20"
\$5.00



Wheelchair victim

AROUND THE WORLD



London, England - The protest reported in the November-December 1990 issue of *Incitement* brought accessible transit a long way. Last September members of Campaign for Accessible Transport (CAT) blocked double decker buses, and 16 folks were arrested. The spring issue of *Go by Bus* newsletter reports the House of Commons took up motion calling for all new buses and coaches to be wheelchair accessible. It was a "splendid success and gained the support of 232 MP [Members of Parliament]." The Department of Transportation has started developing a new generation of low floor buses, and lifts for coaches with higher floors. Even the Common Market announced there may be European legislation which could speed up changes. (Editor's note: Thanks to Keith Armstrong for sending this information!)

Baltimore, continued from p.2

Several activists were held by their necks, in knee locks, during the afternoon long press for entrance to the building. Other ADAPT members went around to block all the other doors. At one point power chair users blocked the underground garage. The building was shut down most of the afternoon. Finally, at 6:00 pm ADAPT pulled off the building and held a press conference announcing our next action was to be in Orlando in October.

Although Sullivan did not meet with us this time, he got the message loud and clear. With the excellent media coverage of the action, thousands of other people heard it too. They also heard Sullivan was too busy unveiling posters for child abuse month (ignoring the abuse of children in pediatric nursing homes) and other activities of equal national importance, to care about the concerns of a bunch of disabled folks. He has refused before, by letter and in person, to meet with ADAPT. He can not refuse forever, and if he hadn't figured it out already, ADAPT made sure he knows it now.

Paris, France - The city of lights has taken note of ADAPT's unique style of effective advocacy! The *Revue Plainpied* carried a story "ADA: The Fight Continues" by Henry Cassirer. It outlines the need for continued advocacy even though this important bill is now a law. Citing ADAPT as one of the most vigorous groups fighting for accessible public transit and the ADA, Cassirer goes on to talk about ADAPT's new issue, community based attendant services. Describing ADAPT's principal arguments (outlined in the ADAPT talking paper,) he says ADAPT has started a war against the nursing home industry, and for the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

"Pour que l'ADA puisse realiser ses objectifs, des associations comme l'ADAPT, l'un des moteurs de la nouvelle loi federale americaine, devront rester vigilantes." - Revue Plainpied

"Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust. All segregation statutes are unjust because segregation distorts the soul and damages the personality. It gives the segregator a false sense of superiority and the segregated a false inferiority."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr
letter from the Birmingham jail

AROUND THE NATION

Boston, MA - Hundreds of outraged demonstrators stormed the Massachusetts state capitol May 23, to protest the \$500 million cut in the state's budget for human services, particularly their Medicaid program. Almost all the 550,000 people receiving Medicaid services would be effected, and many with attendant services needs would have to go into institutions to get needed services. Filling the state house with chants of "NO MORE CUTS", "THE HOUSE HAS BETRAYED US, THE SENATE'S GOING TO SAVE US" protesters moved from outside the Speakers office to the Governor's office. Ten wheelchair users, including CORD members, climbed out of their chairs and blocked the doors to the Governor's office. Earlier they tried to force their way inside but were blocked by Capitol Police. Act Up activists draped huge, multistory long banners outside, which read: "STOP KILLING US!"

Chicago, IL - Chicago's transit system is buying accessible buses, fast and furious! After years of feet dragging, lawsuits, and protests the lift equipped buses are pouring in and getting put to use as fast as they come. Transit officials recently changed an old order for 200 inaccessible buses, so in the next two years 950 of their 2,200 bus fleet will be accessible.

Crockett, TX - The lack of attendant services is so great in the piney woods of deep east Texas that the local Independent Living Center, Tri-County Awareness Association ILC, got 500 people to write their Congressman Charles Wilson in support of ADAPT's demands. Congressman Wilson checked into it and wrote back:

We contacted the Department of Health and Human Services on your behalf and were told that changing this provision is unlikely because of the tremendous amount it would cost states to provide this kind of in-home assistance for all elderly persons and persons with disabilities. Unfortunately, neither the Federal nor State governments can afford the cost at this time.

He then went on to suggest applying for a Medicaid

Waiver for more aid "where there is an unusually high concentration of elderly or disabled residents." When the Director Glenda Turner wrote for further clarification on how it would cost more to re-direct funds, she received the same answer with the additional caveat (one of HHS's favorite excuses for doing nothing) that it would take an act of Congress, and Congress will not be acting that way.

Colorado Springs, CO - ADAPT members in the Springs are playing a crucial role with a new group BUS (Better Use of Services) which is working to expand mainline bus service. Their demands are that: buses run until 11 PM Monday through Saturday and from 6AM to 6PM on Sunday, and that the changes be made system-wide. Among other things BUS has launched a petition drive, since the



Protesters tried to crawl past the police cars at HHS But were blocked. Photo: Tom Olin

AROUND THE NATION

expansion will require the city to commit extra funds. The city has not expanded its bus service or added buses since 1978, thirteen years ago.

Denver, CO - Occupying the rotunda of their state capitol recently, ADAPT confronted the Denver legislature and Governor Romer to protest a bill which would deny students with disabilities the same right as other students. In 1990 Colorado passed the Schools of Choice bill which allowed all students to attend any school in the district on a space available basis. With this new bill however,



Social Security staff took a new route home the ADAPT Way! Photo: Tom Olin

students with disabilities would not have the same right to choose, but would continue being bused to the handfull of accessible schools. "I don't want to be bused," third grader Jennifer Keelan told Governor Romer, "It's not right. It's discriminatory." The statement was a little ironic, coming from such a long time ADAPT activist, but spoke to the segregation policies the state was promoting. Another ADAPT member concluded "We believe this [bill] is blatantly discriminatory toward students with disabilities. We believe students with disabilities have the right to make the same choices as other students."

Durango, CO - Fort Lewis College got a taste of reality when ADAPT members joined with student activists to point out the multitude of barriers the College's disabled students are faced with. The

Admissions office greeted the group with a flight of stairs at the entrance. Dean of Admissions and Development Harlan Steinle came outside to meet them. Admitting there was a problem, he claimed Fort Lewis was addressing the issue by forming a committee to assess the situation. "How many more studies do you have to make before we can get in that door?" demanded ADAPT protester Renate Conrad. Fort Lewis' Vice president for Business and Finance Bob Dolphin was called on the carpet too(after he came down the flight of stairs to his office). He also pointed to the new task force, but

protester Jeanne Elliot hit the nail on the head when she declared "this is just another delay tactic... You're 18 years late now." Elliot was, of course, referring to the fact that Fort Lewis receives federal funds and therefore must comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974. 504 requires access in places which receive federal dollars. Their inaccessible shuttle bus system serving the College became equally accessible

to everyone, when protesters blocked several buses for almost an hour. Next stop was the housing office and then the library. Protesters gave the College 30 days to meet their demands, after which time they will file a formal 504 complaint.

Hyannis, MA - The Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled (CORD) has launched a full scale campaign to redirect funding from the state's "State Schools" to community based services. The so-called "schools" of course are not schools but rather large institutions for people with mental retardation and related conditions. CORD has been protesting, testifying and generally pushing every way possible to promote closing these warehouses and redirecting the funds for community services. A Governor's Special Commission on Facility Consolidation was created to hold hearing and report on their findings.

AROUND THE NATION

Los Angeles, CA - The day after Christmas charges against Lillibeth Navarro, Nancy Becker Kennedy and Randy Horton were dropped. (Charges stemmed from LA ADAPT's take over of the Governor's office to protest drastic cuts in human services, including attendant services.) The official reason: the state did not have a fair chance to convict three people in wheelchairs because the jury would be too sympathetic as not to truly uphold the law. However, if that was true why did the state spend three weeks on jury selection before throwing in the towel? Observers at the trial believe there were two other possible reasons for the charges being dropped. The Friday before, the judge ruled the defense could use a "necessity defense", in other words the situation was so grave the jury could take those circumstances into consideration when deciding the case. That defense had never (according to the *LA Times*) been allowed in the history of California law. The second possible reason was that during jury selection the prosecution tried to disqualify 12 people because they had friends or family who were disabled. The defense objected that this was discrimination in jury selection because a class of people were being barred from serving. But before that was settled, the state dropped the charges. An additional result of the protest was that the state finally agreed to replace an ADAPT member's broken 17 year old wheelchair.



Nashville, TN - ADAPT of Tennessee has made great inroads pushing their state for a Medicaid Waiver to provide community based attendant services as an alternative to nursing home placement for people with disabilities. Currently TN has two small model community attendant services programs in Shelby County/Memphis, one for people with developmental disabilities and one for seniors. If you need attendant services anywhere else in TN you better be able to pay for it out of your own pocket; all of TN's government funds for long term care are sucked up by nursing homes. That was supposed to change with this waiver. Recently however, the state decided the waiver should only apply to younger people with disabilities (ie. folks under 60 yrs old.) So several Senior advocates joined with ADAPT in front of the state Medicaid Bureau office to protest these divide and conquer techniques. "This is immoral to offer to buy off young disabled persons at the expense of our older brothers and sisters. People who are seniors have no more needs than we do" ADAPT activist Diane Coleman told the local media. And ADAPT won! Government bureaucrats changed their tune, and the program will be available to all.

Palm Springs, CA - Things are heating up in the Southern California desert this spring. A coalition of different groups, including Desert Access, a local ADAPT affiliate, brought a proposed anti-discrimination ordinance before Palm Springs

Tennessee ADAPT members were joined by senior advocates to protest age limitations on proposed Medicaid waiver they are applying for. The protest convinced the state not to discriminate against older people who need attendant services.

Photo: Tom Olin

AROUND THE NATION

City Council and Mayor Sonny Bono. The ordinance passed on the first reading but failed on the second. Voting against it were Council Members Broich and Neel, and Mayor Bono. Local activist did not give up the fight however, and organized a protest in front of City Hall, and letter to the editor campaign. This letter campaign uncovered an ironic turn of events, when a local quad, Mark Krueger, reported taking his family to eat at Sonny Bono's restaurant, only to find Bono regularly parks in the handicapped parking outside the restaurant. In fact the quad was kicked out of the space, so it would be available for Bono.

Santa Fe, NM - Governor Bruce King has appointed a statewide task force on personal care services in NM. Made up almost exclusively of people with disabilities, including nursing home residents and ADAPT members, the task force will meet in mid-June. They will deliver a preliminary report to Governor at the beginning of July. Meanwhile the Governor's Committee on Concerns of the Handicapped will put on a training conference on attendant services. The conference will be in June and will feature Tim Cook as trainer, identifying issues, strategizing about empowerment

and more. The Coalition for Disability Rights is also targeting attendant services as one of their focus issues, and ADAPT of NM will make a presentation at their June meeting.

Washington, DC - That bastion of Justice and equality for people with disabilities, the DC Superior Court, was once again the target of a lawsuit because of its discriminatory practices toward people with disabilities. Those who have followed ADAPT's actions will remember our lawsuit against the Court because of its inaccessible Probation Office. Now it has come to light that the Court has a policy of refusing to permit people who are blind to serve on juries. When DC resident Don Galloway arrived at the court with his guide dog to register for that day's jury pool, he was told by Superior Court personnel that he would not be permitted to serve on any jury, solely because of his blindness. "This is discrimination, purely and simply," said Galloway. "A person who is blind can serve as a juror just as effectively as a sighted person" he said. The National Disability Action Center (NDAC) is handling this case, as well as ADAPT's case regarding their Probation Office.

I was incarcerated [in a nursing home] for four years.... Put there to die, and that's where I would stay. The lawyer told me he'd get the judge to lock me away. I had no choice. I lost my home, everything, ... I told them I'd go to jail; at least I'd know when I'd get out!
- Dorothy Garrick



Photo: Carolyn Long

