

A memorial celebration
for Wade and Lincoln Blank
will be held
Sunday, May 9th
11:30 am
at the
Lincoln Memorial
Washington, DC.

As Wade would have wanted, this will kick off
3 days of ADAPT's bi-annual national action to free
1.6 million disabled citizens from nursing homes.

Two memorial funds have been set up. Donations to
benefit disability rights should be sent to:
Atlantis/ ADAPT. Donations for the family should
be sent to: Wade Blank & Family Memorial Fund.

The address for both funds is:
c/o First National Bank of Denver
300 South Federal Blvd
Denver, CO 80219

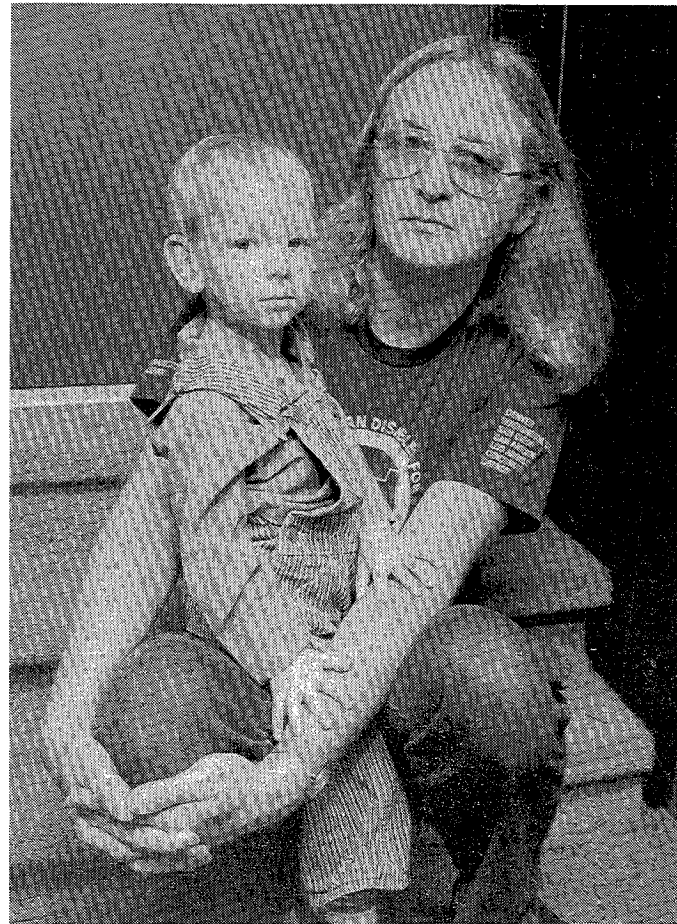


Photo: Susan Goldstein

ATLANTIS COMMUNITY INC.
ADAPT/Incitement
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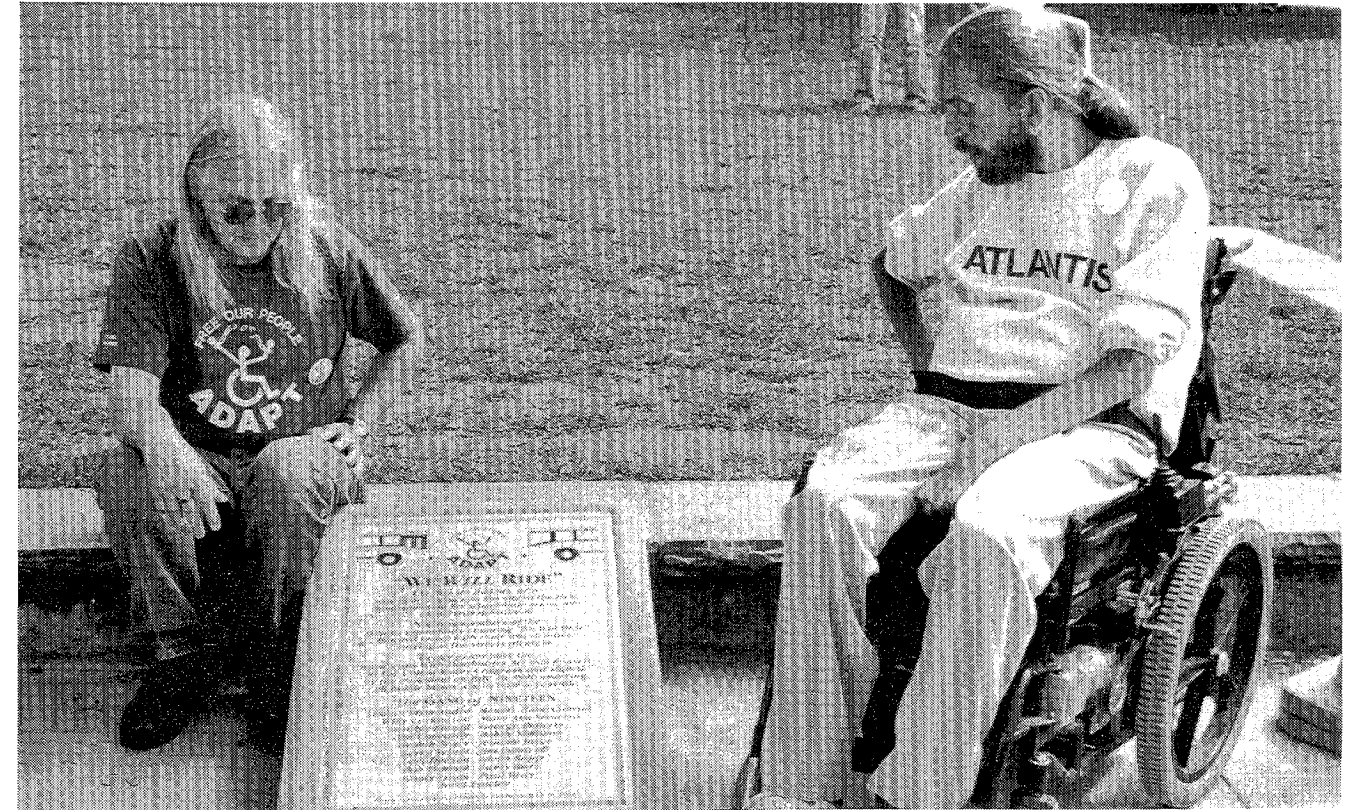
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Jan/Feb, 1993



Co-Directors Wade Blank and Mike Auberger reflect on the past decade of organizing and activism. Photo: Tom Olin

IF HEAVEN ISN'T ACCESSIBLE, GOD IS IN TROUBLE...

by Tari Susan Hartman

ADAPT mourns the loss of one of our greatest leaders, Wade Blank, and his son Lincoln. While on a family vacation in Todos Santos, Mexico, Lincoln got caught in an ocean undertow. Wade swam out to save him and both drowned on February 15th, 1993. They are survived by Wade's wife Molly and daughters Heather and Caitlin.

Ironically, Wade died in the same way he lived -- swimming out into the face of hostile undercurrents, and giving his life to help others fight for theirs.

Those who have come to national ADAPT actions remember in the early days Lincoln rode along on Wade's back. Later, he walked by Wade's side while Caitlin rode. With his elfish smile, Lincoln quietly drank in all the action at demonstrations, vigils, planning meetings and anything else that came up in his dad's activist life. While other kids play "doctor" or "house", Lincoln played "rally."

Wade was born December 4, 1940 in Pittsburgh, PA. After attending an all white high school, he travelled with Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr. to Selma on a dare by a black college roommate.

His experiences there taught him the deep oppression perpetuated by our "civilized" society. Once he graduated college, he served as pastor of a church just outside of Kent, OH that became the underground meeting place for the Students for a Democratic Society, SDS. After the Kent State killings, he returned to get a masters degree from McCormick Theological Seminary and was ordained a Presbyterian minister.

Burnt out on his past activism and organizing, he moved to Denver and began working in a nursing home. With years of

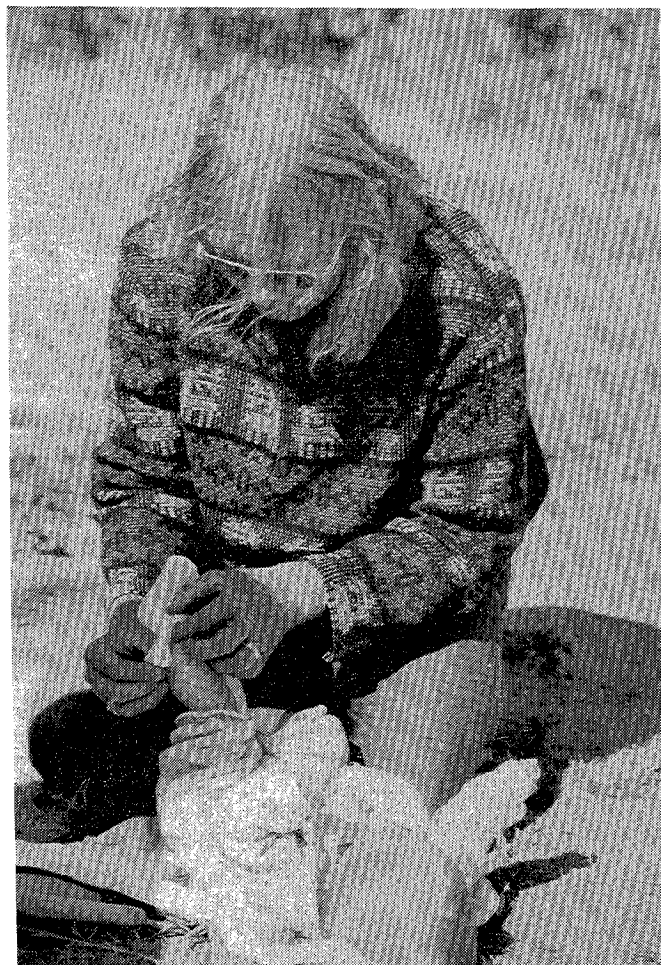
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civil rights, war on poverty and anti-war organizing experience, he could not ignore the oppression he found there. So he began to deliver Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of freedom directly to the doorstep of the disability ghetto: the nursing home.

In 1971, while on staff at Heritage House, a Denver nursing home, Wade tried to work within the system to dignify the lives of the young disabled residents. A recent ABC-TV movie with Fred Savage entitled "When You Remember Me" chronicled this story. Wade and the resident's efforts were doomed to fail, but they gave birth to a better alternative.

In 1974 Wade founded the Atlantis Community -- a model for community-based and consumer controlled independent living -- named for the lost continent of Atlantis, those easily forgotten and dismissed. The first members of Atlantis were those young adults incarcerated in Heritage House, from which Wade had been fired. Forgotten by



Wade taking time out from an action. Photo: Tom Olin.

the system and often by their families, these individuals were not forgotten by Wade as he began to liberate them from the nursing home into the Atlantis Community.

Years later Wade and attorney John Holland masterminded a \$32 million lawsuit against Heritage House nursing home for obstruction of justice and violation of civil rights. The case went all the way to the US Supreme Court. Today many of those original nursing home residents are raising families in homes they now own.

In 1978 Wade and Atlantis realized that if people with disabilities were to truly live independently, they would need, and should have a right to, accessible public transportation. On July 5-6, 1978 a "gang of nineteen" disability activists and Wade held their first inaccessible bus hostage in the Denver intersection of Broadway and Colfax. Late that night Wade was surprised when US Congresswoman Pat Schroeder handed him a doughnut and a cup of coffee. Atlantis' decision to take the fight for lifts on buses to the national level soon led to the birth of ADAPT (American Disabled for Accessible Public Transit). ADAPT was the nation's first direct action, grass-roots movement of disability activists and mushroomed in over 30 states, Canada, Sweden and England.

Like the freedom riders of the 60s, ADAPT's struggle for accessible public transit became a national battle cry of the '80s. Over the course of eight years of bi-annual national demonstrations throughout the country, hundreds of ADAPT activists and their families and friends were arrested for their beliefs and commitment to ensure civil rights for all disabled citizens. Twelve years after the first bus seize, the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, mandated lifts on buses.

ADAPT's street chant "access is a civil right" echoed in the halls of Congress, as politicians became increasingly aware that ADAPT and the disability rights movement fully expected ADA to be passed as landmark civil rights legislation. ADAPT organized the "Wheels of Justice" march in March of 1990, and Wade played a key role. It was a call-to-action that galvanized the disability rights movement to demand swift passage of ADA with no weakening amendments. Over 1,000 disability

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CUT THE CAKE! CUT THE CRAP! NOW IT'S TIME TO FACE ADAPT

ADAPT hit San Francisco like a ton of bricks. Over 300 protestors from 35 cities across the US, as well as England and Sweden converged to demand an end to warehousing of people with disabilities. Back in our old haunts it seemed hard to believe six years had gone by since we had last been there. But those years had not mellowed ADAPT.

The first day ADAPT took on the group which brought us to San Francisco, the American Health Care Association, AHCA, nursing home industry lobbyists. Marching single file down the street to their hotel, we spanned five city blocks. As we

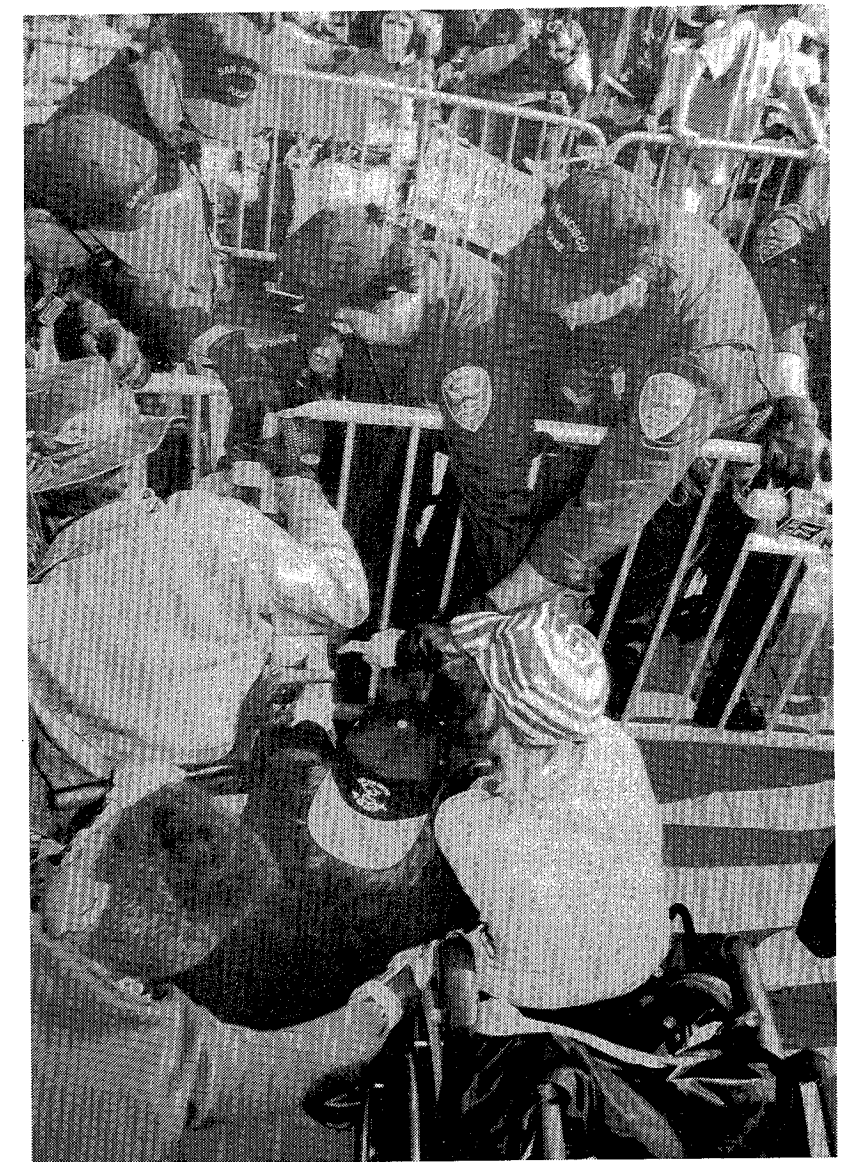
chanted "HEY HO, HEY HO. NURSING HOMES HAVE GOT TO GO!" and "UP WITH ATTENDANT SERVICES, DOWN WITH NURSING HOMES!" passers-by lined the sidewalks and cheered us on.

When we reached the hotel we formed a loose ring around it. At each entrance we made a gauntlet through which, AHCA members coming into town and heading out for their first cocktail party, had to walk. You could see on their faces that they were beginning to realize this might be a long, bleak convention.

The Presidential candidates were targeted the next day. None had made any meaningful promises regarding attendant services. The last of their TV debates was scheduled that night, and we had planned a debate of our own with each of them. Again ADAPT took to the streets, escorted by cops, as we made our way up one of those famous hills of San Francisco. We split into two groups as we reached the Bush-Quayle headquarters, one group remaining while the other continued on to Clinton-Gore headquarters. (Perot's nearest headquarters were in another city.) Bush had a line of thirty cops blockading the entrance, and the elevator to his headquarters on the second floor had been turned off. More cops poked out from behind doorways, up on the roof, down the alley. Let's just say they had the place covered. So ADAPT responded in kind, blocking all the entrances blocked to us.

Meanwhile, over at the Clinton headquarters a different kind of scene was unfolding. The front entrance sported a brand new ramp and a sign to another, more accessible, door. ADAPT members poured inside until the place was packed. Somehow no one could get in touch with Clinton that day, but staff assured us they would be happy to pass along any messages. The Clinton campaign had flown in one of their folks, Bobby Simpson, to negotiate. Campaign staffers served up sheet cake and coffee at a furious rate. But ADAPT had heard the one about "let them eat cake." Doors were blocked and

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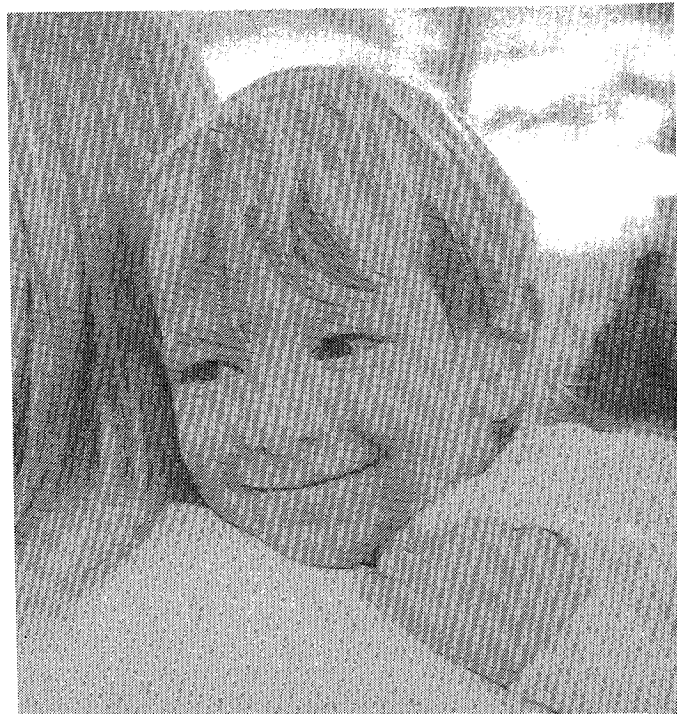
Federal building face off. Photo Tom Olin

San Francisco, continued from p.3

chants like "CUT THE CAKE, CUT THE CRAP, NOW IT'S TIME TO FACE ADAPT", and "WE'RE ADAPT. . . YOU'RE TRAPPED, GET USED TO IT" echoed through the place. As the day wore on and still no one was able to reach Clinton, tempers flared and people tried to crawl out over the ADAPT folks in the doorways. Finally however, the Clinton people delivered a statement from Clinton. In it he recognized the institutional bias of our current long term care system and endorsed the need for more community-based and consumer controlled attendant services. He also promised to create a task force to work on personal assistance services and how they will be addressed in health care reform; recommendations would be submitted within the first 100 days of his administration.

We had discussed going to the state building the next day to protest the state cuts in attendant services. However, when the cops started discussing this target too, we decided to ADAPT our plan and go to the Federal building instead. When we arrived, a sudden new policy: no one in a wheelchair allowed in or out. All accessible entrances were locked. So ADAPT counter blocked

(continued, p. 10)



Lincoln and Wade. Photo: Tom Olin

Statement of Governor Clinton on Personal Assistance Services

I support efforts to make affordable personal assistance services available to Americans with disabilities. We must ensure that all people have the opportunity to live independent lives. People who have disabilities and have a need for personal assistance services should have maximum control over the care they receive. Personal assistance services must be consumer-driven - they must meet the needs and desires of the user, not the dictates of the supplier.

I believe that personal assistance services are of the utmost importance. I understand that every person has different needs. For this reason, I believe that every individual has a right to personal assistance services.

I believe that personal assistance services should be provided by a wide range of qualified individuals. In my proposal for a National Service Trust Fund, I have suggested that young men and women who go to college can pay for their education by spending two years working in jobs which serve our community - teaching our children, policing our streets, rebuilding our infrastructure. Employment in personal assistance services should be an option in this program, and I hope thousands of men and women choose it. This is only one of many ways in which we can expand the scope of available services.

Personal assistance services should be a part of any comprehensive health care reform plan. For this reason, I intend to appoint a task force, including individuals with disabilities, on the role of personal assistance services and long term care in health care reform. Among other things, this task force should examine the role of federal regulations and funding which creates a presumption in favor of institutionalized care over home and community-based services. I have promised to submit a reform package to Congress in the first 100 days of my Administration. The task force will submit recommendations on reform in that time period.

It is time for America to realize that silence on issues of concern to people with disabilities is as damaging as prejudice. As President, I will work with individuals with disabilities to empower people to live independently. I will bring people together and make this plan a reality.

- October, 1992

GOOD NEWS? CLINTON ADMINISTRATION SENDS MIXED MESSAGES

Confidential papers from the President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform indicate a main goal of the new long term care program is to redirect funding from nursing homes to community-based services that provide attendant services to people in their own homes. The *New York Times* reported this startling information. The article, which appeared Sunday February 21st, said the program was still only in the rough stages, with costs still not calculated and no decisions about exactly who would be served. Discussions of target populations alluded to: ". . . disabled elderly. Physically disabled nonelderly. Mentally retarded and developmentally disabled. . ." as well as people with AIDS. The list seems to indicate the Task Force is looking at a functionally based system, but only time will tell.

According to the same *Times* article though, the Clinton Administration has also earmarked for elimination a part of the Medicaid law which would make "personal care" (an at home attendant service program) a mandated service. The March, 1992 *Incitement* reported that this, now optional, service would become mandatory in October, 1994 if changes were not made. Well changes were not made until the Clinton budget proposal. As a National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform representative told the *Times*, "[this change is] quite inconsistent with Clinton's campaign statements emphasizing his support for home and community-based care."

The Task Force report is due out in early May, just about the time ADAPT will be in DC.

ADAPT of TX is selling 11 1/2 ins X 3 1/4 ins. red, white and blue ADA bumper stickers for \$2 each. To order write: ADAPT 1339 Lamar Sq Dr. #B / Austin, TX 78704. Check must accompany order. (Reduced price for bulk orders, call Bob at 512/442-0252)

ADAPT ORGANIZERS MEET IN DENVER PLAN D.C. ACTION FOR MAY

ADAPT activists from 18 cities and 12 states around the country gathered in Denver in late January to strategize for our next national action. It quickly became clear everyone was eager to make sure the new President was held accountable for his campaign promises. Other targets could wait. The second week in May was just at the 100 day mark, Clinton's self imposed deadline. Wade was there, sharing his jokes, and getting the quieter folks to share their ideas.

Things happen, and plans must adjust. Wade's death is a reminder of that. The first day was to be an action at the Lincoln Memorial, on the symbolic theme of freeing our people. Now it will also be a tribute to Wade. This whole action is in his honor. Wade fought for freedom and equality. He taught us to look into ourselves, and we would find what was needed. There is no better time to put Wade's lessons to the test, and to give of ourselves for such a just cause.

We need you with us. We need you to give Wade and his legacy the honor he deserves. We need you to show the Clinton administration our strength is deeper than a single leader. We need you to show we are a force to be reckoned with, and that this issue can no longer be swept under the rug. If you have not come for a while, come back. If this is your first time, come along. You will be changed and strengthened by the actions and by the people you meet.

WASHINGTON DC
MAY 8th (Saturday) through 12th (Wednesday)
CALL KAREN OR ROBIN IN DENVER
FOR INFO AND RESERVATIONS
303/733-9324

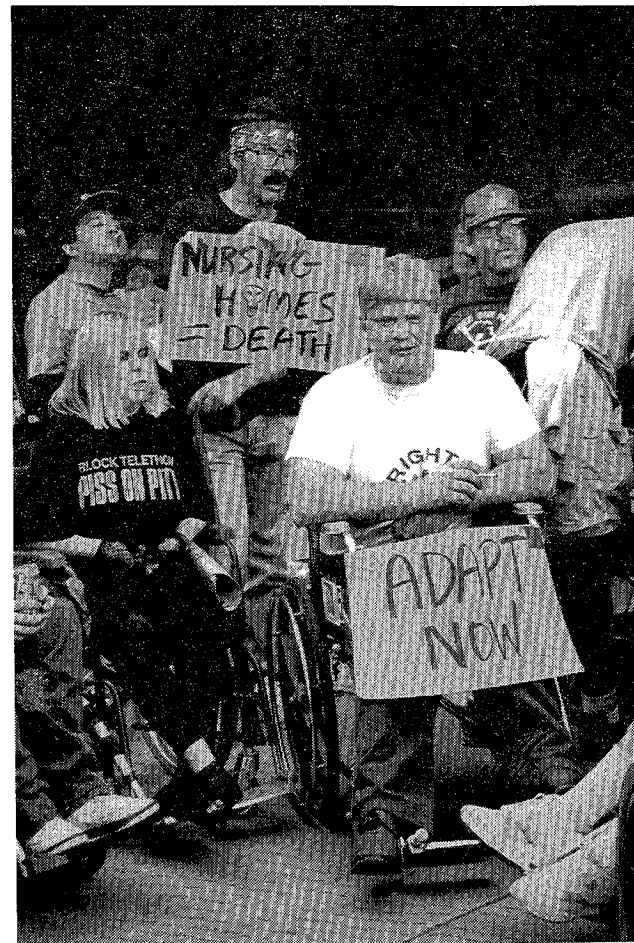


A. D. A.
THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
*"To Boldly Go Where
Everyone Else Has Gone Before"*

**BRITISH DISABILITY ACTIVIST
ARTISTS TOUR U.S.
TRAGIC BUT BRAVE SHOW
COMING TO U.S. IN '93**

*Choices and rights,
That's what we've got to fight for
Choices and rights
In our lives*

After four intense days of actions in the ADAPT ZONE... After sleepless nights sitting up sharing strategies insights and jokes (if you can catch them through the accents)... After an ADAPT style wedding that was up there with the best of them... British blues-rocker Johnny Crescendo let loose with his raw and powerful songs of our struggle for disability rights. Wanda Barbara cleared out the smoke with her cynical, laid-back British humor, zapping doctors, charity groups and other disability segregationists. But San Francisco was only the beginning for Crescendo and Barbara and their entourage. Next stop was Denver, then Austin,



Johnny and Barbara in San Francisco. Photo: Tom Olin

*Wade, what a way to go.
You could have at least become a cripple first,
after all your work, perseverance, commitment,
love, and refusal to give up on our behalf.
There ain't no justice.
We will all go on without you, but we wouldn't
have chosen it.
Of all the missed opportunities in life, not know-
ing you better and learning from your wisdom, is
one of the saddest for me.
I never knew it was possible to feel such a
sense of grief and loss for someone I'd known
so briefly.
It is a testament to your power that this could
happen. . . .
We will go on fighting for our liberation and
never forget your part in it.*

-- Wanda Barbara

Nashville, and Atlanta before heading homeward. Crescendo, Barbara, and a seemingly ever changing cast of characters tour Europe often with their message of disability activism and pride. Crescendo has recorded three tapes of his music -- "Choices and Rights," "Easy Money" and a brand release.

Sorry you missed this experience? Wipe away those tears!!! The "Tragic But Brave Show" starring Crescendo, Barbara, Ian Stanton and friends will be coming to you direct from England in August and early September of 1993. What does this mean? It means:

- * Concerts featuring blues, rock, folk and outrageous comedy...
- * Workshops on music, songwriting, poetry, comedy, disability consciousness, disability culture, and the British disability movement...
- * A chance to raise money, have fun, meet some great folks and get your troops all fired up!

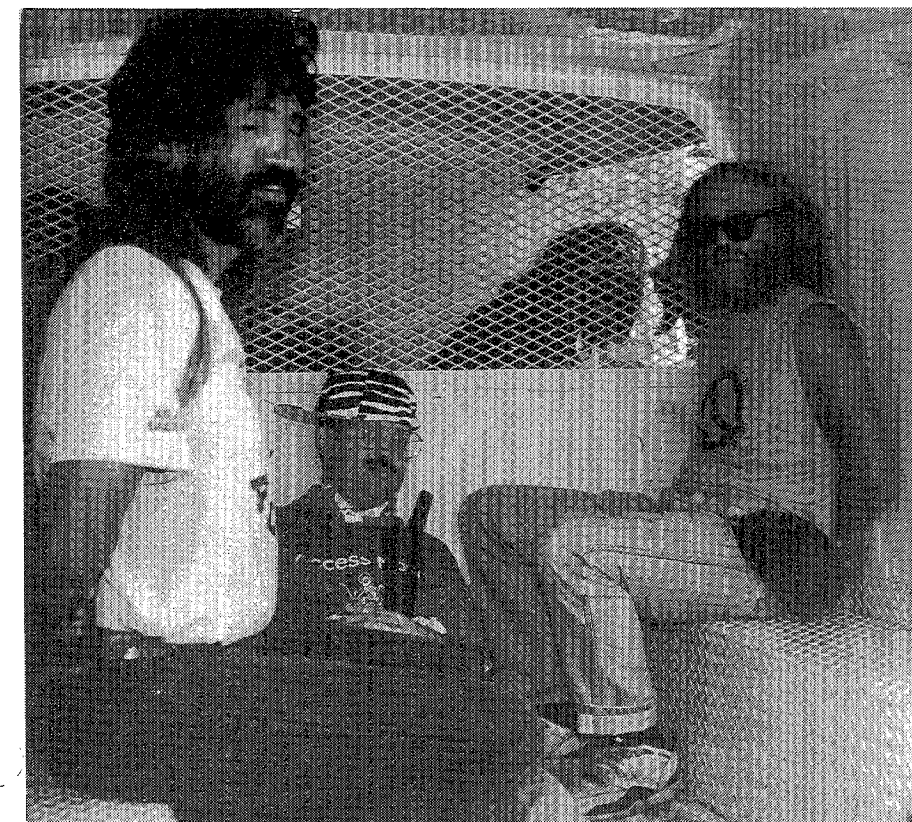
How do you get involved? It's easy. If you are interested in having the troop stop in your town, or if you are interested in getting one of Crescendo's recordings (\$10 per tape) contact:

Tom Olin or Robin Stephens
National ADAPT
12 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203
303/733-9324

**ADA ACCESS LAWSUITS
CURB CUT USERS VICTORY!**

Disabled in Action, DIA, and attorney Steven Gold have already won a major victory with Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA. They sued the state of Pennsylvania and city of Philadelphia for failure to install curb ramps in street and sidewalk RESURFACING projects begun after January '92. The court just ruled that resurfacing is an "alteration" and therefore triggers the stricter ADA requirement for curb cuts, and the undue burden does not apply because it relates only to existing facilities, not construction like this. The court's opinion also reaffirmed Congress' intent to see curb cuts provided, and that even for existing curbs, entities which control roads should have plans for installing curb cuts within three years.

The Spectrum, a stadium/arena, located in Philadelphia, was also sued for lack of accessible, integrated seating on the ground level. This lack of access is caused by both physical and policy barriers. The International House of Pancakes crumbled to DIA's previous suit and removed the barriers. DIA vows these suits are only the start!



advocates an injunction against the state of Illinois. The Court decided that, by refusing to accept and process applications for Home Services, the state Department of Rehabilitation Services and Department of Public Aid violated a Medicaid regulation as well as the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the US Constitution. (For more information contact Rene Luna at 312/226-5900 voice, or 312/226-1687 TDD)

<< Inside the paddy wagon for a trip down to pier 38. Photo: Tom Olin

FREE OUR PEOPLE LAWSUITS

Steve Gold has filed several cases, using the Americans with Disabilities Act, to get (or keep) people out of nursing homes and other institutions and increase community-based services. One case involves a woman with a brain injury who has been waiting for 39 years for the system to let her loose, mostly from state hospitals for people with mental illness.

Gold, on behalf of his client Disabled in Action of Pennsylvania, DIA, is also suing the PA Department of Public Welfare for losing \$12,485,651 in federal medical assistance reimbursements available for attendant services. Their argument: because the state will not apply for federal funds, people are denied services and put in jeopardy of institutionalization. Further, Gold and DIA contend that the state could draw down these federal dollars and double the amount of attendant services available using only state funds already earmarked for attendant services. (For more information contact Steven Gold 215/627-7100)

A related victory was won last August, when a US District Court in Illinois granted attendant services

Wade, continued from p.2

rights activists from across the nation joined forces with ADAPT to demonstrate to the world that they were to be taken seriously.

On the second anniversary of the signing of the ADA (July 26, 1992), the city of Denver and its Regional Transit District commemorated that historic event by dedicating a plaque to Atlantis/ADAPT and the "gang of nineteen" who held the first bus. Wade refused to have his name engraved on the plaque, but his silent tears at the dedication ceremony revealed the depth with which he felt the issues of disability rights. He had left his mark forever etched in the foundation of our civil rights movement.

In 1990, when it was clear that ADAPT had successfully led and won the fight for accessible public transportation with the passage of the ADA, Wade and other national ADAPT leaders convened to plot their next course of action. There was little question for anyone what that next issue would be. ADAPT transformed its mission and became "American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today."

Together, ADAPT and Wade returned to the scene of one of society's most heinous crimes – the warehousing of 1.6 million disabled men, women and children. These disabled Americans committed no crime, yet were and still are, interred against their will, in nursing homes, state schools and other institutions. They are used as the crop of industries like the nursing home lobby, physicians and their conglomerate owners who continue to get rich by robbing our people of their fundamental civil, human and inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Most of us are spectators sitting on the sidelines of life, learning history from books. Wade, was an active participant in over three decades of political organizing. He taught others how to create and record their own destiny. A brilliant strategist, he helped shaped the tide of the disability rights movement. Yet Wade was never too busy to roll up his sleeves and assist someone with attendant services, push or repair a chair, or drive a van. He stood up for what he believed in and expected others to do the same. In his pursuit to free others

(continued, p. 9)

"Some - mostly those who didn't know him - have said that Wade's methods were "extreme." They said that civil disobedience in the eighties and nineties is "passe", "obsolete," "inappropriate." Bullfeathers! The same kind of things were said about Washington, Jefferson, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King. What is extreme, what is inappropriate is millions of human beings living with less dignity than we accord to our pet dogs and cats. What is inappropriate is American citizens imprisoned without due process of law in oppressive institutions and rat infested back rooms. What is inappropriate is tens of thousands of people with disabilities living and begging and dying in the streets. What is inappropriate, what is unspeakably immoral, is a society that cannot be bothered to make the simple changes necessary to give its own children the opportunity of full humanity. "It has been my privilege to work closely with Wade Blank during the last several years. He has demonstrated against a meeting I chaired - when HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan spoke at the 1991 President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities annual conference in Dallas. We have counseled together by telephone at all hours of the day and night. We served together on the ADA Congressional Task Force and in negotiating ADA with the President of Greyhound. We marched together for equality in San Francisco, Philadelphia and Washington. We were together in the freezing mid-night outside the barricaded Department of Transportation in Washington. I never put myself in a position to be arrested. Wade said that was alright, because I could play positive role within the system. I was never sure in my heart if that I was on the right side of the bars. I knew he was...."

"Let us join together in memory of Wade - on May 9th [at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC] ... to continue the struggle for a truly human society. Let us join in one voice to shout his shout - "FREE OUR PEOPLE. "

- Justin Dart, Jr

Wade, continued from p.8

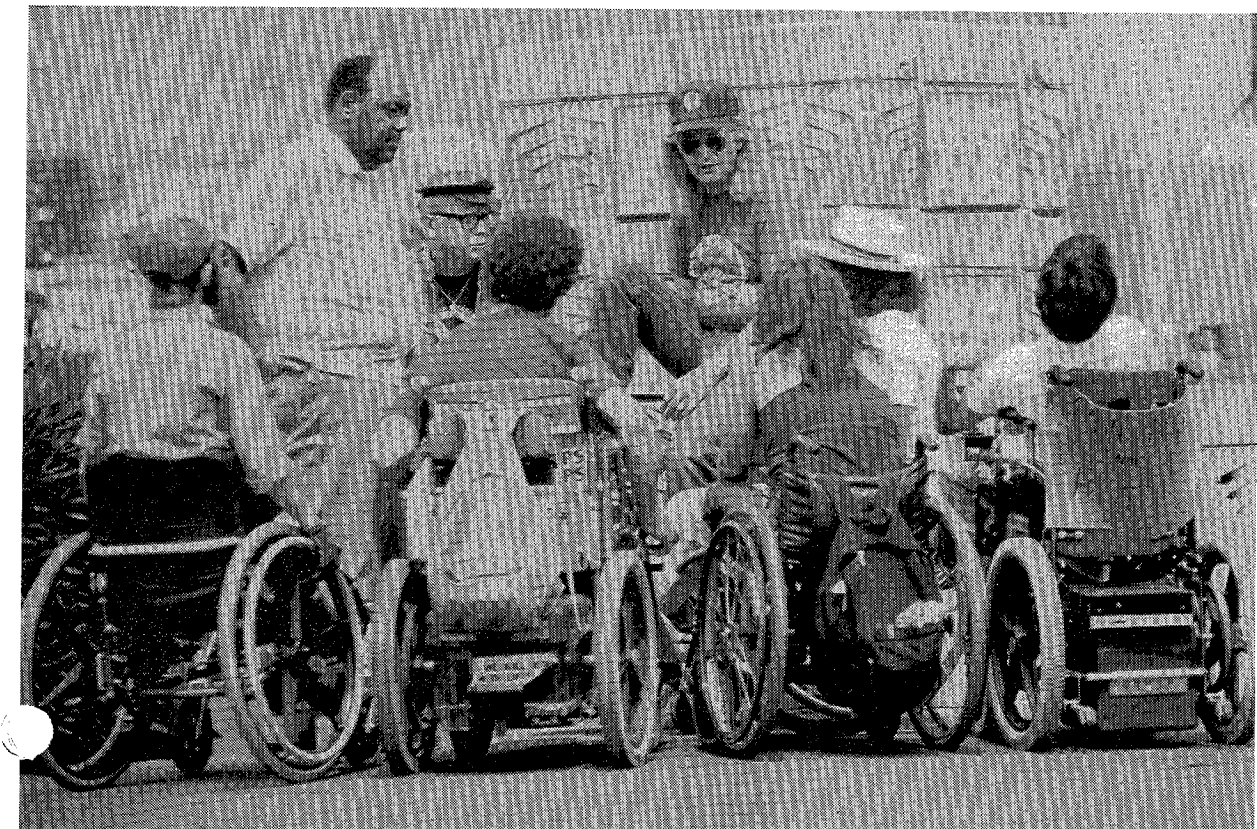
from the chains of oppressions he was arrested 15 times – and proud of it! Several weeks ago Wade Blank's story, including the development of Atlantis and ADAPT, was officially accepted into the National Archives.

Wade, a passionate Cleveland Browns fan, was a loving husband, daddy, friend, organizer and leader. He valued and encouraged the unique contributions that each of us has to give to ourselves, each other and the world around us. We honor his contribution, value his friendship, and grieve the loss of our beloved friend and colleague. Wade was one of the few non-disabled allies of the disability rights movement who understood the politics of oppression. At times through the years, his leadership role was questioned, but he never lost sight of the vision, nor lacked the support of those he was close with.

"From my heart, I know the dream will keep on and on, because what Wade started and everyone picked up and carried on with is more important than just freedom and rights – there is a spirit and feeling from all of this of home, family, love and respect caused by the emergence of the common bonds of freedom and equality. It is a great feeling to know that there is a "family of man" where we all work and play together, laugh and cry together, and all realize that together is the key to our success. We have something that is unique in this world, and my hope is that we can spread it all around in ever widening circles to encompass the world." – Star Stephens

Wade used to tell me I could do anything I want to do. He said I didn't need him or anybody to live a good life. Now I've got to prove he was right. . . . Wade was like a daddy to me. He did more for me than my real daddy did. We're going to miss him.

- George Roberts



Wade was a brilliant strategist who could pull a plan from thin air. A constant communicator, Wade got input from lots of folks and loved to project possible outcomes of different strategies and tactics. Often, during a long day of protest, Wade would pull the leadership team over to "run different scenarios", as he put it. Photo: Tom Olin.

San Francisco, continued from p.4

their barriers to us, declaring the building a nursing home: no one in or out without ADAPT's permission. Eventually 46 people were arrested and shuttled to a holding area called Pier 38 for booking. A real pier on the bay, it gave most of us the only sight seeing for our trip: the San Francisco Bay and the Oakland Bay Bridge.

Those not arrested kept the heat high. They headed straight over to the State building. Some got inside, while others kept up an intense protest to make sure state officials were not let off the hook for their part in cutting attendant services and forcing people into nursing homes.

The last day we returned to the source of the trouble, to AHCA. They seemed to think we were gone. When we arrived no barriers were up, so some slipped inside. (Coincidentally, the National Council on Disabilities was holding a hearing there that day.) Soon however, those who made it in were dragged outside, and barricades popped up everywhere. This time ADAPT took off the kid gloves. Slipping through any breaks in the barriers, we tried again and again to enter the hotel. Finally the cops started arresting, and pandemonium broke loose. We blocked paddy wagons, streets and anything else that seemed appropriate. This time 102 people were arrested and sent to Pier 38. There could be no doubt about the depth of ADAPT's feelings.



Erik arrested. Photo: Tom Olin

That night, in true ADAPT style, we celebrated our efforts, had a wedding and a concert. It was a perfect ending for a great, action-packed four days of honest hard work promoting attendant services and real homes, not nursing homes.



Police watch ADAPT protest at the Clinton/Gore headquarters. Most protesters were inside. Photo: Gary Bosworth

MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS CALLED TO TASK

FREEDOM DAY A SUCCESS

When the American Medical Association, AMA, held its House of Delegates in Nashville's Opryland last December they were worried about ADAPT paying them another "visit." So top officials contacted ADAPT of Tennessee's Diane Coleman to set up a meeting. The discussion showed the AMA stands firmly in the middle of the road,

willing to agree in concept with many of ADAPT's positions but unwilling to go much farther. The AMA admitted an "institutional bias" in current health care funding policies, and had a statement criticizing the current biases. They also admitted they had not taken any concrete steps to remedy the situation. Similar positions were taken about divestment by doctors in nursing homes: the AMA "strongly discourages self-referrals" but this position remains advice, nothing stronger. AMA officials agreed to work

with ADAPT on these issues and try to find someone to introduce ADAPT's resolution to the House of AMA Delegates. They promised to take ADAPT's issues back to their Board for discussion and further action. Finally, they released a press statement on the AMA stand on attendant services.

January 15th, Dr. King's birthday, ADAPT kept the pressure on. For our Third Annual Freedom Day, ADAPT targeted 13 state medical associations in 15 cities. The four demands: 1) reduce nursing home referrals by 50%, 2) disclose all ownership or financial interest in nursing homes, 3) divest all ownership/financial interest in nursing homes, and 4) vote on ADAPT's resolution at the next AMA national conference. In Louisville, a small but determined group took over the Kentucky Medical Association headquarters and were told the

Director Mr Cox was home sick. Cox must live under his desk, because when staff realized ADAPT would stay until he recovered, he materialized from his office ready to meet. (This action had the added benefit of so peaking the reporter's interest that KY ADAPT also got a meeting with the Courier-Journal's Editor to discuss the issue.) In Tennessee ADAPT forced a meeting with the Tennessee Medical Association Board Chair Dr. John Lamb. While Lamb agreed more options were needed, he would not come out and support ADAPT's goals. In California and Michigan, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts,



Colorado ADAPT faces off with CO. Medical Association officials. Photo: Tom Olin.

New Mexico and three other states ADAPT showed up at state Medical Association offices to give the industry lobbyists a taste of their own medicine, administered ADAPT style of course. ADAPT - TX swooped up to the plush top floor offices of Texas Medical Association to deliver ADAPT's message to FREE OUR PEOPLE. Top officials agreed to write the Governor and state legislators supporting ADAPT and decrying the state's hacking away at attendant services in the current budget battle.

You can contact national ADAPT at:

12 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203
303/733-9324 V/TDD
303/733-6211 fax

1991 HCFA FIGURES ON LONG TERM CARE COSTS

Medicaid pays for 65% of the nations 1.5 million nursing home residents. In 1991 we spent \$59.9 billion nationally on nursing homes. Of that total, \$28.4 billion is paid by Medicaid, \$25.8 comes out of pockets of long term care users, \$3.9 billion from other public programs, \$1.2 billion from other private sources and \$0.6 billion from private insurance.

Medicaid spent \$34.5 billion on long term care in 1991. Only \$2.6 billion (13.4% of that total) went to home and community-based care, 82.3% was spent on nursing homes. The rest, 4.3%, funded institutions for people with mental retardation.



Photo: Tom Olin

DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH INCITEMENT? JUST DROP US A LINE (SEND A FLYER, A NEWS CLIPPING, WHATEVER):
INCITEMENT/ADAPT
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Nursing Home Users Under Age 65

A recent report from the US Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, entitled "Nursing Home Users Under Age 65" outlines the results of several studies on nursing home and personal care home residents. (Pub. No. 92-0060). The figures are from 1987, but they seem to be among the most recent since this report was released in August, 1992. Some of the results reported include:

- * Total 1987 population in nursing and personal care homes 2,235,000, 10% under 65 yrs, 5% between 18 and 54 yrs
- * 18 to 54 age group male female ratio even (as opposed to 72% female 65 and older)
- * Over 56% never married; 27% divorced, separated or widowed; 14% still married
- * 13% lived in the West, 27% each in the Northeast, Midwest and South
- * More than 36% had "central nervous system disorders" (like: multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, paralysis, and epilepsy)
34% had "psychoses" related disabilities.
34% had "non-psychotic mental disorders."
24% had mental retardation disabilities.
19% symptoms (coma, convulsions, hallucinations, etc.) [Some had more than one disability.]
- * 40% came from a hospital/medical facility.
33% community independent living
16% another nursing home or facility for the mentally retarded
12% came from group, retirement, or boarding homes or the street.

AHCA SURVEYS TOP FORTY

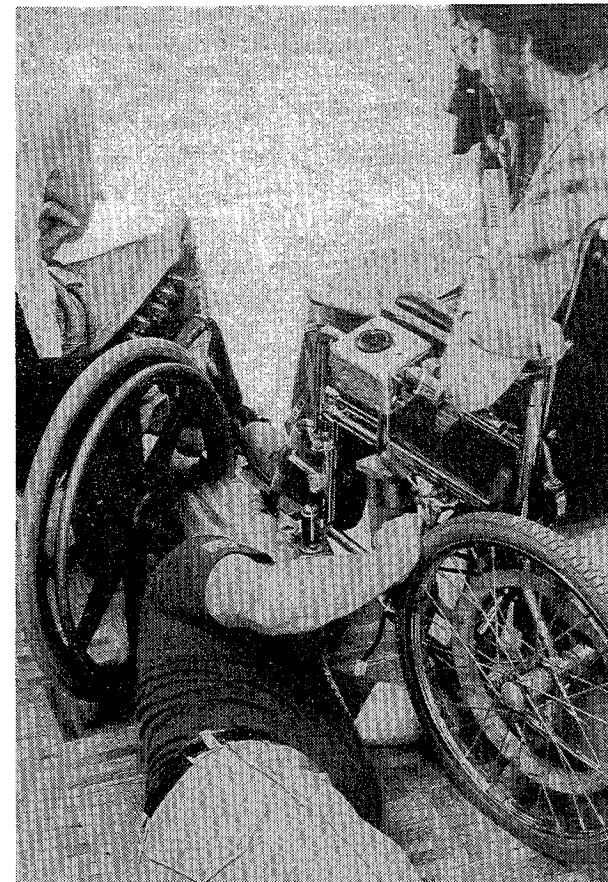
In a survey published in their magazine *Provider*, AHCA looked at their top forty. Beverly Enterprises, of Fort Smith Arkansas, leads the pack with \$2.3 Billion in revenues (23% of revenues from private pay), 90,384 total beds and 848 facilities operates in 36 states (the most of any nursing home company.)

JERRY'S ORPHANS STILL AT IT

Jerry's Orphans are still at their campaign to clean up the telethon disgrace. Organizers point out that coordinated actions have greater effect. Suggested dates for actions to build up to next Labor Day include:

- * Thursday April 1st (April Fools Day)
- * Wednesday June 2nd
- * Wednesday August 4th (National Corporate Sponsor Day)
- * Sunday, Monday September 5-6 LABOR DAY!

Over 22 cities participated in Labor Day Telethon Actions last year. *Prime Time Live* interviewed Jerry, and he captured his own arrogance beautifully as he sneered about our being "left with only half [of our humanity]." *Prime Time* also interviewed "Orphans" Mike Ervin and Chris Matthews who did a great job of getting the message out nationally. MDA denies any effect from the protests, but cracks are showing. For more information contact Jerry's Orphans: 312/477-3120 or 312/477-1172 (messages).



Wade was always ready to lend a hand. Photo: Tom Olin

NEW GUIDE FOR DISABILITY ACTIVISTS

No More B.S.

This no-nonsense, cross-disability guide tells why and how to speak up, take action and get your share. *No More B.S.* discusses discrimination, the ADA, grass-roots organizing, and media. Lots of disability activists doing various disability rights work give practical, down-to-earth advice. An informal style makes the guide both readable and fun. Snazzy layout and wild pictures keep the info entertaining. Written by Victoria Medgyesi. To order, send \$10 with your name, address, city, state, zip and daytime phone number to:

PEOPLE FIRST OF WASHINGTON
PO Box 648
Clarkston, WA 99403

JOURNAL HEADLINE TELLS ALL

Does this sound like the *Inquirer* or *New York Post*? Not! It was the *Wall Street Journal* whose headline declared "Grim Prospect: Older People Will Do Anything to Avoid Life in a Nursing Home: In spite of Federal Reforms Elderly Opt for hovels, Abuse, Suicide, the Street, Living on Greyhound Buses." But this was not just a case of sensational headlines, the copy was full of examples of how people really feel and what lengths they will go to avoid getting stuck in a nursing home. The article, by staff reporter Michael J McCarthy, sites an Alliance for the Aging survey which found that the greatest fear of older people is being sent to a "home"; it is a fear greater than getting a stroke or Alzheimer's, or even becoming a financial burden. "Nursing home scandals have fed fears," McCarthy wrote, "but more often the problem, as older people see it, is a life sentence to mental and physical imprisonment - confinement to an institution in which they retain little or no control over such basic daily routines as when to get up in the morning, what to have for breakfast and how to spend the afternoon. A nursing home strikes many as a sterile antechamber to the mortuary." The article adds researchers find "fearing nursing homes is a major cause of suicide," it keeps many from leaving crumbling homes, reporting abuse and "seems also to contribute to homelessness."

AROUND THE WORLD



Over 1,000 people protested nationally. Photo courtesy of Shoji Nakanishi, DPI - Japan.

Japan - For the fourth year a Nation-wide Demonstration for Accessible Transportation was held October 11th and 12th, 1992. The number of cities participating in the demonstrations grew to 17 from 14 in 1991. In Tokyo alone 150 people met at Shinjuku Park and marched to the Shinjuku Station where they were carried up the stairs to ride the train to Ikebukuro Station. 300 people



We Will Ride, Japanese style. Photo courtesy of Shoji Nakanishi, DPI - Japan.

mobilized for the Yokohama demonstration. "The majority of train stations have neither elevators nor escalators. We have to ask for assistance from the train staff, who are reluctant to carry wheelchairs up and down stairs. Or [we must] wait for young men in expectation of this kind of help" explained Shoji Nakanishi, Chairperson of the Japan Assembly of Disabled Peoples' International (DPI). Nakanishi added "only five big cities, namely Osaka, Kyoto, Yokohama, Kobe and Tokyo have 28 public buses with lifts in total. However, wheelchair users are not yet allowed to be on board alone by law." The protests, organized by DPI and local groups, also included visits to the Japan Railways and Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Transportation Ministry.

Montreal, Canada - The article that appeared April 21st on the front page of *La Devoir*, a local news daily, could have been written about almost any paratransit service in the world. You have definitely heard it before. The headline read: La STCUM (Montreal's paratransit, and only transit service for people with disabilities) is over-flowing with demands for rides. Growing demands and shrinking dollars have lead to totally inadequate service with rides which are much too late, missed trips and denial of at least a quarter of the requests per day. It has finally gotten so bad that even ADAPT's old buddy transit head Mme Louise Roy, had to admit there was a problem. Mainline access is still beyond her grasp though. Taking a very hard line stand Roy vowed, at hearing on the issue, that she and the transit system would look for solutions.

Meanwhile another transit battle rages on in the intercity bus (or motor-coach) service. The train system Via Rail has cut back its routes so literally hundreds of towns are left with the bus as their only connection. Bus operators are concerned with declining ridership, yet apparently they do not want just any riders, for example none with disabilities. Why? What's the hold up? Yes you guessed it, ADAPT's old enemy Greyhound (or Greyhound

AROUND THE WORLD

Canada Lines to be exact) and a handful of industry leaders are howling: cost, loss of seats, and loss of baggage space. (Can't they even come up with some new material?) Government reaction is also predictable: studies, reports, and inquiries. One discussion paper even is titled "Can persons with disabilities travel across Canada by motor coach?" Their capitol Ottawa is even playing the Canadian version of the "states' rights shuffle" giving all responsibility for regulating intercity buses to the provinces. Just leave the driving to Greyhound and we can all learn this lesson in bus operations: mechanics 101 - This is a bus shaft, and here's how it works.

Cologne, Germany - As tensions grow over the recession and rising unemployment, so do neo-Nazism, intolerance and violence. January 19th the *New York Times* article, "Disabled Germans Fear They'll Be the Next Target", told how Germans with disabilities have been targeted and believe the harrassment will get worse. After some neo-Nazis in a department store snarled "They must have forgotten you in Dachau" at one wheelchair user, he and some of his roommates organized a "chain of lights for tolerance". Over 50,000 people turned out for the rally held on the bridges over the Rhine. The *Times* reported it was a strong show of support but that many felt it was not enough. 2,285 acts of violence by far right groups took place last year. Government figures show the majority were against foreign asylum seekers, but these figures do not track people with disabilities. One disabled man committed suicide after some young hoodlums threw him down a flight of stairs at a railway station and jeered "Under Hitler, people like you would have been gassed long ago." The intolerance is not only the province of the far right though. The *Times* article goes on to state that a court in Flensburg "recently awarded damages to a vacationing German couple who maintained that their holiday had been ruined by the presence of handicapped guests in their hotel."

— RITES OF PASSAGE —

As one of Wade's friends put it recently, "there's a whole lot of hurtin' going on" in ADAPT these days. So let's start with the good news first. For those who were not there to partake and enjoy, ADAPT members celebrated a wedding at our San Francisco action. Jimmy Small and Erik von Schmetterling were united by Reverend Wade Blank. Good luck to the two of you and may your union strengthen both your love and your activism!

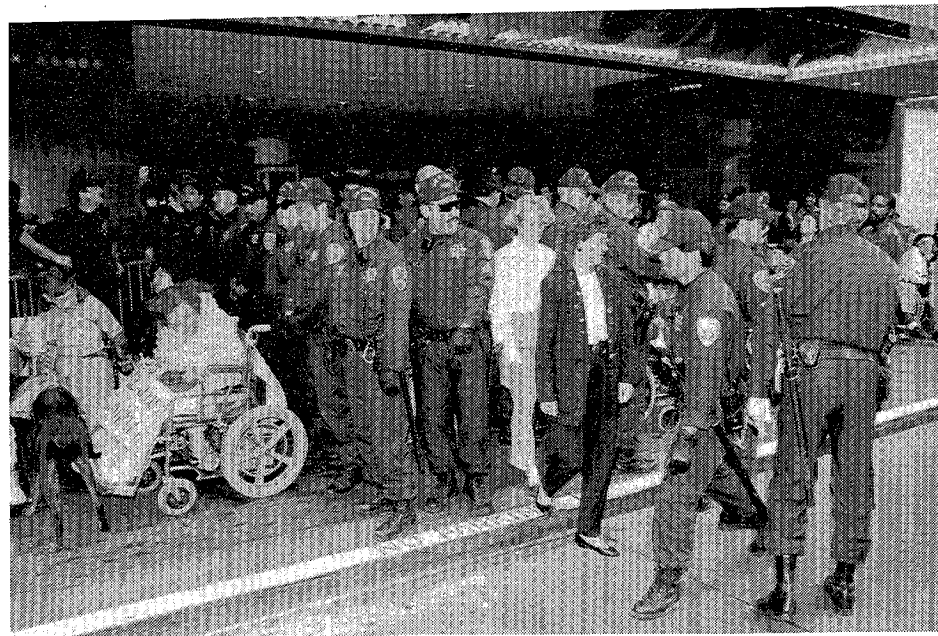
Since the last issue of *Incitement* ADAPT has lost one of our women warriors. Jayne Embry from the Memphis ADAPT group died November 3rd, 1992. Jayne got involved with ADAPT at the American Bus Association/United Bus Operators of America action, just as we were really taking on Greyhound and our struggle for lifts on buses was merging with the fight for the ADA. Jayne helped organize many of her fellow Tennesseans to become involved in ADAPT. Her activism and love of life will be missed.

Those who came to the Baltimore action may remember Susan Logan. She also recently died. Ms. Logan was stuck in a Baltimore nursing home and had come into public attention on CBS *60 Minutes* shortly before our HCFA/Social Security actions there. She had been brain injured from complications from an abortion she had received in 1989. We went to visit Ms Logan and she repeatedly told us she wanted to go to California to be near her parents. Unfortunately those in control of her life, her lawyer and parents, did not want her to leave Maryland because they were concerned it would hurt her personal injury lawsuit. In her obituary the *Baltimore Sun* reported that three weeks before her death the suit was settled for \$2.68 million in cash and monthly payments of \$9,883 for the rest of her life. The family lawyer James Kolb told *The Sun* that with her death the family "will receive monthly payments for the next 10 years totalling about \$800,000. Legal and medical expenses reduced the cash payment to the family by about 50 percent."

AROUND THE NATION

Denver, CO – Finally a three year vision of the Atlantis Community was realized when an open house celebrated the licensing of their new Ida Unsain Mental Health Clinic on January 19, 1993. Atlantis' mental health program will serve people with physical, cognitive and/or sensory disabilities who also have mental health concerns. Serving the whole person, the goal of the clinic is to integrate physical disability and mental illness services. Their motto: "Only good things ... not f—ed things." The clinic will also train mental health clinicians and professionals. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation helped fund the clinic start to develop models for serving folks whom traditional mental health providers tend to overlook or serve inadequately. Other funders include the Mental Health Corp of Denver and the Colorado Division of Mental Health.

Edgartown, MA – This chic summer get-a-way on Martha's Vineyard Island off of Cape Cod tried to move their Public Welfare and Employment Training offices to an inaccessible building. But CORD (Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled) would not stand for their claim that they provided program access by planning to meet with people with disabilities in a local library. At a protest last August, CORD filed an ADA complaint against the two state agencies. Just to make it very clear for those state bureaucrats, who seemed to have a little trouble grasping the concepts, Julie Nolan crawled from her wheelchair up the two steps to the front door. "This is how I get into the public welfare office. Does this look like it's very American, democratic, open to everybody?" she asked.



Police make sure AHCA members get out to their parties and fun. Photo: Tom Olin

New Orleans, LA – *Newsweek* reported October 19 that the home and files of nursing home investigator and reformer, Sue Harang were mysteriously torched last May. Her sleeping 17 year old daughter and a friend narrowly escaping the blaze. Harang's records and files on nursing home abuse were ruined, a major blow to her investigation and her successful collaborative efforts with her lawyer-husband in winning suits against even some of the biggest in the nursing home industry. The FBI has been brought in to investigate the blaze, and Harang told *Newsweek* their questions centered around the New Medico Healthcare System, brain injury rehab specialists under federal investigation for some time.

Murfreesboro, TN – The National Health Corp, NHC, the nursing home giant headquartered in this rural Tennessee community, was the target of an August action by ADAPT. Tennessee seems to provide some type of hog heaven for the nursing home industry, and NHC is hip deep in one of the most pungent examples of power broker wheeling dealing. ADAPT was bothered by the fact

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that NHC had recently hired a new vice-president of public affairs. Who was hired? State Rep. John Chiles, House Minority Leader and member of the House of Representatives nursing home "watch-dog" committee. What could create better public affairs than a cozy little set up like this? Conflict of interest? What's that? Maybe it is helping to squeeze a six dollar a day increase from NHC residents for a corporation which *Barron's Magazine* declared had last year's highest yielding growth stock. But maybe not. ADAPT took over the NHC lobby demanding to see Chiles, but he was not available for ADAPT or the media. Instead, NHC called the cops and five protestors were

arrested and barred from setting foot or wheel on NHC property until March 13, '93. What about Chiles? No longer House Minority Leader, he may still be on the "watch-dog" committee.

Langsing, MI – A controversy has been brewing since last spring regarding attendant services and parenting. Leigh and Bill Earl both have Cerebral Palsy and use government funded attendant services. Last May Leigh gave birth to their daughter Natalie. County social services

pulled the rug from under them by explicitly forbidding the Earls' attendants to help with childcare. At the same time the county began to threaten to take the baby away because the county believed the Earls were committing "unwillful child neglect." So the Earls were forced to rely on volunteers.

Chicago, IL – "Better dead than disabled, and might as well hurry up about it," was the message the first District Appellate Court gave the disability and AIDS communities with a November up-holding of a lower court decision against a two

year old ward of the state. Specifically the court ruled it was fine with them if state Department of Child and Family Services issued a "do not resuscitate" order for the HIV-positive girl who is thriving and showing no signs of AIDS. These orders are usually reserved for people who are terminally ill or in a persistent vegetative state. The girl's lawyer Thomas Holsum summed it up for the *National Law Journal*: "If you're a child and you're HIV-positive and you're a ward of the state, the state is basically giving up on you," he said. Does this state sanctioned killing remind you of anything ... like maybe Nazi Germany's Aktion T-4 or their "Children's Program"? And the bad news



Mike Auberger consults with Michigan ADAPT folks at the Jan. meeting. Photo: Tom Olin

does not stop there. Though the girl's attorneys asked the case (C.A. vs Morgan), be reheard in a higher state court, their request was denied. This means this decision sets a precedent.

(A related case is pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. You may recall Johnson v Gross/Thompson, the case about the babies born with Spina Bifida who were denied treatment in an Oklahoma Hospital in order to test a quality of life formula. So far courts found no problem with using babies with disabilities as guinea pigs for "scientific" experiments of this kind, finding in favor of the

AROUND THE NATION



ADAPT struggles to Free Our People in San Francisco Photo: Tom Olin

doctors each time. The Supreme Court should be announcing in mid-February whether or not they will hear the case. Again major precedents will be set by this case as well. For more details contact the National Center for the Medically Dependent and Disabled, Inc. phone 317/632-6245)

Salt Lake City, UT – Salt Lake disability activists took on the Utah Division of Disability Determination Services last March. The activists were fed up with the 4,000 person backlog and waits for disability determination (and therefore assistance and benefits) of many months up to six years. The Disabled Rights Action Committee, including ADAPT members, protested demanding the resignation of the state and district directors. They got a meeting with the division director Blaine Peterson three weeks later. Over 40 angry people turned out. Peterson told them that by September the 4,000 person backlog will be cut in half by streamlining the process, working overtime and farming some of the work out to other states. While protestors seemed pleased, they were guarded too. "We've been in the same place for two years, we'll have to wait and see what happens" Jim Garrison told the *Salt Lake Tribune*.

Boston, MA – While Governor Weld works to limit funding and access to personal care assistants (PCAs) local advocates continue to give him a run for his money. But disability rights advocates have also unveiled a secret weapon: a state bill that guarantees the right to PCAs. Among other things the bill will make PCAs a mandated Medicaid service, provide them for those needing physical or verbal assistance, ensure that services are provided to people with family members at home, and ensure people can use PCAs in "a variety of settings" (like at work, school

or home.) The bill also requires reinstatement of people who were targeted by the Governor's new policy and were dumped from services.

It boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. We are made to live together because of the interrelated structure of reality.

– Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.

FROM PRIDE TO PITY TO POWER

by Diana Webster and Danny Saenz

The other day I was at the party of a woman who had been disabled all her life. Other people with disabilities were there also. Someone asked: "How can you say you are proud and disabled?" I wanted to tell the group that being disabled had nothing to do with being proud. The issue is not about disability. It is about how you feel about yourself and your accomplishments.

In the dictionary the first definition of pride is: "sense of one's own proper dignity or value; self-respect." The first definition of disable is: "to weaken or destroy the normal physical or mental abilities of; to cripple." The general public has a difficult time trying to put these two words together. They do not understand how someone can be proud of being "less than normal."

People with disabilities were not valued or respected in the past. Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States, wore leg braces and walked with crutches as a result of having had polio. The general public did not know of his disability. Roosevelt and his advisors thought the American public would not feel safe if they knew the country was being led by a cripple. Society equated having a disability with being weak, inadequate, unworthy, and not human.

Parents of a newborn child with a disability were often advised by the doctors to place the child in an institution. In some cases doctors told the father to tell the mother that the child had died. If the parents brought the infant home, they often kept the child inside, out of view of the public. Little formal education was provided, and any that was tended to be sub-standard, in segregated classrooms apart from non-disabled children. The child with a disability was pitied by the public. Large organizations that were supposed to help children with disabilities portrayed them as helpless, in order to collect donations. This did more harm than good.

People who acquired a disability later in life, had basically the same choices: institutions or being stuck at home. It is difficult, if not impossible, to

respect yourself when there are more places you can not go to or get into than places you can. (Architectural barriers are signs of attitudinal barriers which existed in the past that still exist today. These barriers keep people out.) It is easy to see why persons with disabilities did not – and still do not – think they are worthy of respect. We as persons with disabilities have bought into this idea for so long we have difficulty changing our self-image, let alone convince the world that it needs to change the way it views us. But this view is negative, and society needs to learn that having a disability is neither negative nor positive, it is a reality. The world (non-disabled and disabled alike) needs to acknowledge this reality and not overlook the fact that each person with a disability is just that, a human being. Each person has good days and bad ones too. Each has all the emotions of any person: sadness, love, happiness, and worries. We should look at what each person can do, not focus on what they cannot do.

The road to self-respect is difficult but it must begin in the heart of the person with a disability. Without personal pride there is no personal freedom. Without personal freedom there can be no universal freedom for people with disabilities. We must, with pride, open our hearts and demand our rights, our right to live in the community with any assistance needed, our right to equal access to transportation, to education and to housing. This will be difficult for a group that often has a hard time asking for a glass of water.

Some say this sounds too strong, angry, bitter. It is time people with disabilities got strong. We have been angry and bitter too long.

