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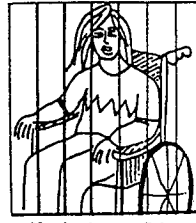
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Institute for Disability Access Inc.
ADAPT\Incitement
1319 Lamar SQ DR #101
Austin, TX 78704

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

R_x Prescription: Nursing Home Placement

This is our nation's prescription of choice for disability including those disabled by age. Approved for use by the American Medical Association and the U.S. government.
Side effects: decreased freedom, persistent segregation, abuse, overmedication, depression, and suicidal tendencies.
Warning: Institutionalization will limit independence, dignity, self-determination, community participation, productivity, property ownership, human and civil rights.



Suggested alternative: National attendant service program.
WARNING--NOT U.S. GOVERNMENT OR AMA APPROVED.
Persons disabled by age or any cause to remain independent, receiving all necessary support services at home. Everyone has the human right to live in their own home.
CAUTION: MAY DEPRIVE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF PROFITS FROM NURSING HOME INTERESTS.



(From one of the Chicago flyers for ADAPT's AMA action)

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ADAPT takes the issue of attendant services in our homes, not nursing homes, right to the door of block-grant mastermind Gov. John Engler. Photo: Carolyn Long

GOING TO HOUSTON, HOUSTON

Have you ever danced the Two-Step with a Bubba? Shared Huevos Rancheros and Crawfish Gumbo with a Bubbette? Well now's your chance, as ADAPT hits America's third coast. That's right. The Gulf Coast of the Lone Star State should be your next destination, because this spring ADAPT activists will convene in Houston Texas.

May 18-23, 1996, ADAPT will flood the state that has given our nation the likes of Senator Phil Gramm, as well as Congressmen Dick Armey (House Majority Leader), Bill Archer (Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee), Tom Delay (House Majority Whip) and Charles Stenholm (head of the "Blue Dog" Democrats). They hold the fate of our people in their grasp. These Congressional leaders need to hear that there is a real cure for our ailing national long term care system, not just the snake-oil that has been offered up so far. It is only right that the state with the second largest nursing home population should be paid a

LANCING A BOIL : ADAPT AT WORK

ADAPT's action in Michigan's tiny Capitol Lansing began with a double header. Breaking into two groups of 175 people each, ADAPT's crack troops simultaneously hit the Waldenbooks Stores in both Lansing area malls. Marching in single file through the malls, we made a bee line from the parking lot to the book stores. We silently slipped down the stores aisles between the shelves until every inch of the store was occupied by book browsing ADAPTers. All Newt Gingrich's books were collected and passed up to the leadership team by the front check-out counter. They asked to speak to the manager who was already threading his way through the throng.

WHAT WOULD THOREAU HAVE SAID? C.D. AT WALDEN!

ADAPT's demands were simple. Call your corporate office and tell them to call House Speaker (and author) Newt Gingrich with our message that he should stop the double talk. Until Gingrich makes good on his promise to introduce a Community Attendant Services Act, CASA, we want no one profiting from his book sales.

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(continues, p. 2)



Packing the Republican headquarters. photo: Carolyn Long

HOUSTON, cont. from p. 1

house call by ADAPT's "Free Our People" pros. And with so many key players in the Republican "Revolution" hailing from Texas, what better time than this election year? So russle up a herd of wheelchair warriors and y'all come on down to the Lone Star State. Seriously folks, we need you to join us, and bring a friend -- or more.

This year's spring action will have some new twists to it. We are enhancing our leadership development and advocacy training with workshops on fundraising, organizing, updates on attendant services and housing, and more. AND HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros will be there.

As Medicaid is transformed, as the states gain more control of human services, we in the disability community need to be better organized than ever before. By sharing strategies and swapping war stories, we can build our defenses and hone to a fine edge our tactics. As the Union activist Joe Hill once put it: "DON'T MOURN, ORGANIZE!" We have the opportunity to make significant changes for the better, but only if we are prepared. Call Karen, Robin or Terrance for room and flight arrangements: 303/333-6698 (v\td).

And ... for those of you who like to plan way ahead, Nov. 2 -7, 1996 ADAPT will be in Atlanta. Theme: lighting an Olympic-sized flame under AHCA. But more on that later.

LANSING, cont. from p. 1

By backing out on his commitment to introduce this legislation, Gingrich becomes an active promoter of warehousing people with disabilities in nursing homes and other institutions. "Take the book off the shelves, give it away if you like," our spokes people told Waldenbooks' management, "but do not allow the blood money to continue to flow through your stores."

Looking around their jam-packed aisles, both managers quickly agreed to call the corporate offices. The corporate pencil pushers were willing to convey our message, but would not stop their sales. As this was only the start of a busy week we agreed that if the corporate headquarters would fax our demands to the Speaker, we would leave -- for now. Waldenbooks complied, and we were on our way.

Three actions in one day is probably some kind of record. Moving the troops was quite a job and took several rounds of shuttling. Literally hundreds of us gathered in a church parking lot, as we wait for the rest. Yet ADAPT was still somehow able to surprise our next target: the folks at the state Republican headquarters just next door.

SHOW DOWN AT THE ELEPHANT HOUSE

Once again sheer numbers allowed us to pack all available space so that no one could get in or out of this building. This time it was so tight, however, that when the police arrived they could barely get close enough to the leadership who were at the center of this human mass.

ADAPT declared the state Republican headquarters a nursing home, with no one getting in or out without ADAPT's approval. We demanded that the Republican party call Speaker Gingrich and tell him to introduce CASA. We also wanted them to ask Michigan Governor Engler to meet with ADAPT, since he had not responded to ADAPT's previous letter requesting a meeting. Last but not least we wanted the Republicans to ask Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson, a

(continues, p. 8)

ADAPT MEETS WITH SPEAKER IN CAPITOL ROTUNDA

After five months of protests at his home, his offices, his book promotions, House Speaker Newt Gingrich met with ADAPT's delegation in the Rotunda of the Capitol on September 13, 1995. Those of us who were there for the ADA Rotunda-take-over could feel the ghosts of our brothers and sisters and hear the echos of our chants still hanging in the air.... But enough with the poetry. In front of media representatives, the Republican Party Press camera, and Senator Harkin, Gingrich promised ADAPT he would:

- 1) introduce a national attendant services bill based on CASA within two to three weeks;
- 2) take our comments on Medicaid reform bills (he claims he doesn't want reforms to hurt us);
- 3) take our suggestions on improvements to current HCFA rules and legislation,
- 4) ask Senator Dole, Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson (new head of the National Governor's Association) and Michigan Governor John Engler to meet with us about attendant services and CASA,
- 5) and last but not least, release a press statement on all this by next week.

He made these commitments in the most straight forward way, agreeing with us that our goals actually supported the goals of the 104th Congress. However, since September 13th, the Speaker and his crack staff have failed miserably to follow up on these commitments.

After weeks of harassment his staff finally released a pitiful press statement. After driving Medicaid reform into warp speed, the Speaker's staff sent ADAPT the proposed legislation by regular mail, it did not arrive until after the bill had been marked up in committee. Luckily, DC disability advocates (like Becky Ogle, among others) were able to send the information in a timely manner. ADAPT held another series of actions one month

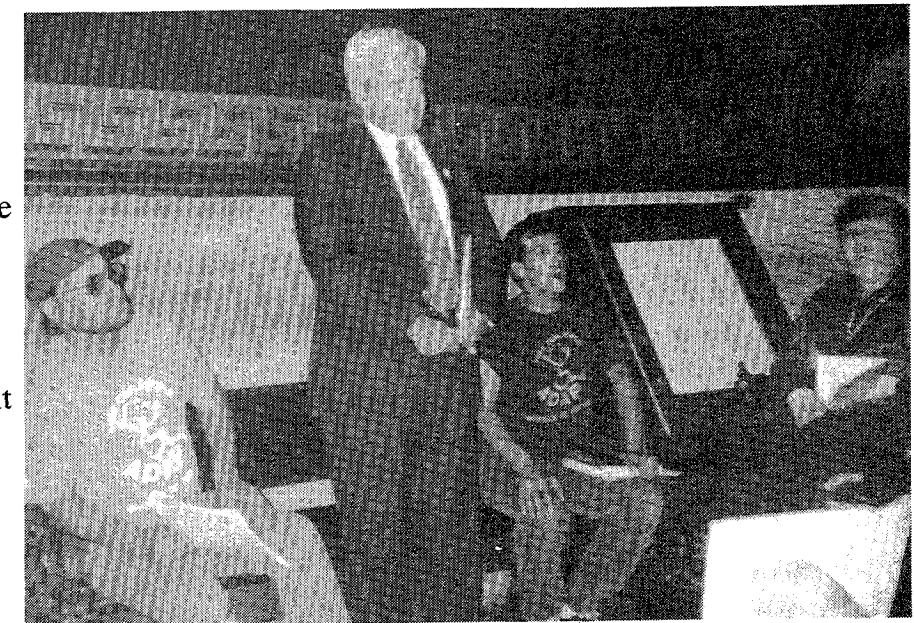


photo: Penn. ADAPT

later to spark Gingrich's memory of the promises he made. In cities across the US, offices of US Representatives and Republican headquarters were targeted to send the Speaker a message.

As he had still done nothing on CASA by the time of ADAPT's October Lansing action, we continued to press our demands through various avenues. In response to our take-over of the Michigan Republican state headquarters, he sent letters asking Dole, Thompson and Engler to meet with ADAPT. But the double-talking Speaker and his heretofore swamped staff were not too busy to write a retraction of this request within two days, using ADAPT's "strong-arm" tactics as his excuse.

Gingrich has never said he would not introduce CASA, he has simply failed -- repeatedly -- to act. So ADAPT urges all *Incitement* readers to take as many opportunities as possible to remind and hold Gingrich to his word." The Speaker's telephone numbers are:

202/225-0600 phone
202/225-7733 fax
e mail: georgia6@hr.house.gov

ALOHA AHCA

Three representatives of ADAPT did go to Hawaii to address the American Health Care Association, AHCA, board of directors. In fact AHCA specifically requested this in settling the lawsuit. And it was very clear that the long shadow of ADAPT had still followed AHCA across the Pacific. Though there were no picketers, no chants, no arrests and no swarm of media, the convention was none the less tense.

Even as the three made their way to their scheduled appointment with AHCA, they were followed. Uniformed policy and security would brace themselves as the three passed by. Conventioneers scurried away when they saw the ADAPT T-shirts.

Mike Auberger, Mike Oxford and Babs Johnson spoke about how community-based services were the wave of the future and the preferred service. They warned ADAPT was serious and would not go away until people were at least free to choose.

Amazingly, AHCA members clapped during the presentation. The hard liners were still there, but also there were many who saw the handwriting on the wall and who did not completely freak at the thought of change.

FRIDAY THE 13th FOR CONGRESS

As another reminder to Gingrich, and Congress in general, ADAPT groups and our supporters across the nation hit Congressional home offices and Republican party offices. In Fall River RI, over 71 members of CORD and the Southeast Center for Independent Living joined forces and forced a meeting with Representative Peter Blute to protest his support of Medicaid cuts. Louisville ADAPT protesters found inaccessible Republican party headquarters but Phyllis Burkhead's threat to have her group spend the night brought the director skuttling to call the Speaker. KY ADAPT also hit their Senator Mike Ward who just had been on TV with Shalala talking about how great nursing homes have become since recent reforms. AR

ADAPT and SAILS held a Question and Answer Session for their Congressman Dickey. The crowd lit into him about Medicaid's vital role in the survival of people with disabilities. Their passion took Dickey by surprise! TN could not completely let their Health Care Association off the hook. First they targeted Congressman Frist; then Wynelle and Imogene Carson delivered a plastic lei and an "Aloha" to their state association. The dynamic duo pulled up only to find staff hiding behind locked doors! It turned out that AHCA had sent out an alert to all their state associations warning of an outdated ADAPT plan to hit the state offices, so each of the states had braced themselves against an ADAPT action.

EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!

In cities across the United States ADAPT continued the campaign started in Lansing with a pre-Christmas visit to Waldenbooks Stores to suggest a 1996 New Year resolution to Speaker Gingrich, namely: live up to your promise and introduce ADAPT's proposed legislation CASA, (casa in Spanish means home).

Why Waldenbooks? Newt wasn't hearing ADAPT. Maybe his booksellers could get through. [See article p.3] If Waldenbooks wanted to give away these books, that was fine, but no profit should be made until Gingrich keeps his promise.

As each ADAPT group took up this issue with their local store, Michigan ADAPT went straight to the headquarters for direct negotiations, shutting them down until our issue was dealt with.

To make a long story short, Waldenbooks officials agreed to call and write the Speaker supporting community based services and urging him to keep his promise about CASA, and to provide space for ADAPT flyers concerning this issue.

WHAT ABOUT BOB?

ADAPT has not forgotten there are two sides in our Congressional system. Senator Dole is also being pressed to meet with ADAPT and throw his support to CASA and community-based attendant services. Kansas ADAPT and many of their supporters have repeatedly been working on the Senator and his staff. In addition to the usual calls, letters and visits, they took advantage of the holiday season to try another tact. Taking a tip from some enthusiastic new Pennsylvanian ADAPTERs who, dressed as wheelchair Santas, presented the Senator with a beautifully wrapped copy of CASA, Kansas got with the spirit.

Dressed as elves they delivered to Dole's Topeka office, a Christmas cookie and a copy of ADAPT's proposed legislation. The first day one elf went, the second two, etc. By the twelfth day there were 17 elves and a crowd of folks from the other offices gawking. Though the staff sent the cookies up to DC, Dole apparently still did not get the message.

So on Freedom Day Kansas ADAPT hit all of Dole's offices around the state, refusing to leave till they got a written agreement to a meeting. In addition, Senator Dole will be reading a statement, prepared with ADAPT, into the official Congressional record.

'T WAS A MONTH BEFORE X-MAS

'Twas a month before X-mas and bless my sole,
Not a creature was stirring - not eve Bob Dole.

The meeting we planned with plenty of care,
In hopes that Bob Dole soon would be there.

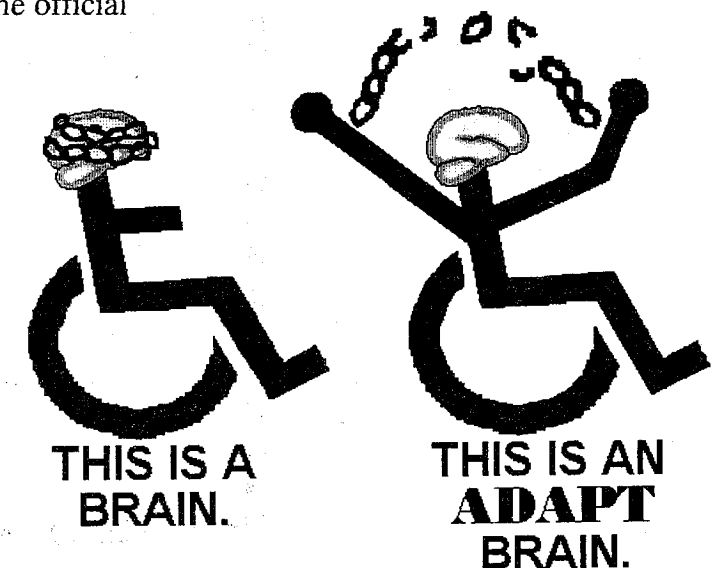
You in your wheelchair and I with my cane,
Waiting for Dole was driving us insane!

Our whole ADAPT world is in such a tizzy,
Because waiting for Bob is driving us dizzy.

All across Kansas, in towns far and near,
From the members of ADAPT, Dole has nothing to fear.

The holiday season is rapidly fleeting -
It's way past time to set up a meeting.

KANSAS ADAPT



Any Questions ?

IT'S THE 11TH HOUR FOR MEDICAID REFORM DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR GOVERNOR STANDS ON THE ISSUE?

In an effort to compromise over Medicaid reform last November, the Senate Finance Committee voted on an amendment to guarantee Medicaid coverage to low-income pregnant women, children and people with disabilities. This entitlement would have protected many people from losing their attendant services. But suddenly many of the Senators rushed to switch their vote on this amendment to remove people with disabilities from among those who would be guaranteed Medicaid coverage. Claiming confusion, these Finance Committee members said they had not realized what they were voting to do.

According to West Virginia Senator Jay Rockefeller (one of Congress' experts on health and long term care) in an interview on National Public Radio "There was no confusion whatsoever, and Senator Chafee said what it would do, the amendment - I'm just quoting him - would be to guarantee health care coverage to low-income pregnant women and children and individuals with disabilities. And then we voted and then passed it 17 to three.... What it was a callous, cruel slashing out of ... the disabled."

Why the sudden switch? Could it possibly have something to do with a letter signed by 20 Republican Governors [states are listed below], demanding the federal government remove any guarantee of Medicaid coverage to people with disabilities?

To date it seems they will compromise on this issue by allowing the states to define which people with disabilities will be eligible. This of course is basically the same as having no entitlement, since states can exclude anyone and everyone with their definitions.

"...they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."

Martin Niemoeller - German theologian imprisoned throughout World War II.

These are the states where the Governors who signed the letter are from. Is your Governor one of the 20?

Utah	Illinois
Michigan	Oklahoma
South Carolina	Virginia
New Mexico	Mississippi
Iowa	Texas
North Dakota	Kansas
New Hampshire	Ohio
Wisconsin	Tennessee
California	Minnesota
Connecticut	New Jersey

GOVERNORS TAKE AIM AT LONG TERM CARE

by Bob Kafka

The National Governors' Association, NGA, has thrown their hat in the ring of those vying to "save Medicaid". Their solution comes in the form of a draft document outlining their proposed solution to the expansion of Medicaid. The draft, released in early February, has been heralded as the grand compromise between Democratic and Republican solutions. Yet it looks amazingly like the Republican Congressional Medicaid Transformation Act. In order to create this "compromise" the NGA document skillfully avoids use of words like "entitlements" and "block grants", and instead talks about "guarantees" and "state flexibility" which come to the same result.

One issue of concern for people with disabilities is that in the NGA plan, although it "guarantees" coverage for people with disabilities, each state will be able to define what disability means for the purpose of eligibility for services. For instance, the state of Mississippi could use the Developmental Disabilities definition for eligibility while the state of Idaho could use the ADA definition (highly unlikely, but for the sake of example...) There would be no continuity between states.

The Governors' proposal completely sidesteps the institutional bias in the current system and does nothing to promote community-based services. People would still be guaranteed nursing home placement while there would be no "guarantees" for community-based services.

Each governor needs to hear that any Medicaid reform must address this institutional bias. Efforts to educate the governors can not be wasted. It is obvious that whatever the final transformation of Medicaid looks like, in the end decisions will be made mostly at the state level.



GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION HIT BY SEVERE NOR'EASTER

Northeastern ADAPT folks pulled off a great action at the National Governor's Association conference in Vermont in July. Though you may not have heard of this association before, it is very influential, and becoming more so as Congress presses harder and harder to decentralize government and turn control back to the states. This was their first, but not last, taste of ADAPT. ADAPT folks from Mass., CT, NH, Penn., and VT joined together for this event. They protested in front of the Governor's hotel, and then rushed the front doors using some of ADAPT's "Nashville techniques." Kent Killam and Alfonso Williams used the two on one cop fake out and almost made it in the hotel; as the cop would let go of one to catch the other, the first one would rush ahead. 21 were arrested in all. Best of all Green Mountain ADAPT (of Vermont) was born, kicking and yelling and looking forward the next national action. As a Green Mountain ADAPTER put it, "you all were certainly the nicest people to get busted with. Any time you want to raise hell, give us a call." And we will! Congratulations to all the folks for a great job. The Governors were certainly made aware of ADAPT and our desire for a national attendant services program. Much thanks also to all the folks who got their Governors to call and write the national association. We won't let up on our demands of this association until the Governors invite us to present our concerns at one of their meetings.



ADAPT activates their wheelchair-cloaking-devices to march up to Gov. Engler's house unnoticed. photo: Carolyn Long

Lansing, cont. from p.2

Republican and head of the National Governor's Association, to meet with ADAPT.

Michigan's Governor Engler was a prime target because he is one of the masterminds of the block grant with no strings attached, which is so popular in Congress these days. In addition Engler was one of 20 Governors who wrote the Speaker asking that, in the Houston version of Medicaid reform, they not include people with disabilities among the groups whose funding would be protected from being fully block-granted (see article p.6). Engler has also been slashing at the state community supports for Michiganders with disabilities, so it was not too hard to imagine his vision for the federal reform of long term care.

The party tried contacting the Governor and soon some of his top level staff appeared on the scene. The staff hemmed and hawed, and in the meantime someone back in the Governor's office typed up a letter -- back-dated of course -- trying to pretend the Governor had already responded to our letter of request. (It was such a shoddy job though, that no one was fooled for a second.) Various state department heads were offered up

for meetings, but ADAPT remained firm on the Governor. Police swarmed around, not actually doing much of anything. When one rogue cop started to go on a rampage the crowd mellowed out the scene by chanting loudly "WE'RE NON-VIOLENT!"

With another couple of intense days ahead, we returned their building, having given them a taste of the medicine forced down the throats of the over seven million disabled Americans needing long term care.

CRIPS IN HIS 'HOOD

Since Engler's Republican pals could not get him to budge, we decided we had to pay him a visit at home. After all, the policies designed by Engler and promoted by his buddies in Congress not only reach people with disabilities in our homes, they reach right into through our kitchens and bedrooms and into our bathrooms. Without the community based attendant services these power-brokers were so loath to support, many of us can neither eat, nor get in or out of bed, nor relieve ourselves; the only option left is the nursing home.

Bright and early Tuesday morning we loaded up our vehicles and began to shuttle our group to the refined neighborhood the Governor calls home. Mansions dot the little lanes that curve through this 'hood. A little park just down the street offered a somewhat sheltered gathering spot. We were thankful for any shelter -- since freezing drizzle and snow whipped around us in the arctic wind.

Once gathered, we set out to find the biggest surprise of the trip awaiting us. Not only did none of the neighbors notice us, the Governor's own staff drove in and then out of the gated driveway as we approached -- and they left the gate open. Some of the ADAPT gang, not a shy bunch to

(continued, p.10)

**SUPREME COURT SUPPORTS ADA DECISION
FREE OUR PEOPLE IN NURSING HOMES!**

by Steve Gold

While Congress and the President stumble over each other trying to play on the public's heart strings about how many folks will be denied nursing home placements with Medicaid reform, a recent court decision supports the will of the people. The Supreme Court has denied cert on [let stand] the Helen L. (also known as the Idell S.) case, thus supporting the decision of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. This decision, if used properly, can assist in freeing people from nursing homes in other states as well as Pennsylvania, where it was filed.

Idell S. was forced to live in a nursing home because the state refused to pay for community-based personal attendant care. Idell S. sued, claiming her rights under the ADA were violated because she was "unnecessarily segregated" in a nursing home and could live in the community with her family if the state Department of Public Welfare would pay for attendant care. The Third Circuit agreed with her, and forced the defendant to pay for her community-based attendant care.

The Court said the defendant had "determined that she was eligible for attendant care services. However, because of lack of funding she was placed on a waiting list for that program" while she continued to live in a nursing home.

"The parties agree that if Idell S. were enrolled in the attendant care program, nursing home care would be inappropriate."

"Idell S. is not asserting a right to community services per se. She properly concedes that DPW is under no obligation to provide her with any care at all. She is merely claiming that, since she qualifies for DPW's attendant care program, DPW's failure to provide those services in the 'most integrated setting appropriate' to her needs violates the ADA."

The court's ruling continues "The Commonwealth continues to spend approximately \$45,000 a year to keep Idell S. confined in a nursing home rather than spending considerably less to provide her with appropriate care in her own home."

"In enacting the ADA, Congress concluded 'There is a compelling need to provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate ... for the integration of persons with disabilities into the economic mainstream of American life.' ... Congress has stated that 'discrimination against individuals with disabilities persists in such critical areas as ... 'institutionalization'." Many sections of the ADA further support this point.

"The Court refused to limit the ADA discrimination prohibition to when people with disabilities are treated differently than people without disabilities." Reasoning that people without disabilities do not live in nursing homes or similar institutions, the Court concluded that ADA protections can not be so limited..."

"The fact that it is more convenient, either administratively or fiscally, to provide services in a segregated manner, does not constitute a valid justification for separate or different services ... under the ADA." "The ADA applies to the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, and not just to DPW. DPW can not rely upon a funding mechanism of the General Assembly to justify administering its attendant care program in a manner that discriminates and then argue that it can not comply with the ADA without fundamentally altering its program."

For more background on this decision, especially if you wish to use this court decision to free people from nursing homes contact Steve Gold

215/627-7100 (voice)
215/627-7300 (TTY)
125 S. 9th ST #700,
Philadelphia, PA 19107

begin with, took it as an invitation to come on in -- so we did. In fact over a hundred of us had strolled up the driveway before Security closed and locked the open gate.

LAST ONE IN SHUT THE GATE

While the cops were securing the one gate, several of our folks were securing our wheelchairs to the other gate with kryptonite locks. We declared Engler's home a nursing home for the day.

Having been caught with their pants down, security and city police decide to get tough: no one allowed out, and no food or drink allowed in. It was sad to think they thought our commitment to freeing our people was only as deep as a McDonald's 65 cent burger or a chilled cup of coffee. Our hearts knew better, and we loudly traded songs and chants with our folks outside the gates. So we kept ourselves warm and our message strong.



show the cops two could play at that game. Photo: C. Long

NEITHER RAIN, NOR SNOW... SHALL KEEP THESE MESSENGERS FROM THEIR APPOINTED ROUNDS ...

Police milled around. The media were all over this story. The Governor's staff came over from his office. They told us that the Governor refused to meet with us. They told the media we were terrorists. But mostly they just wound up looking foolish as our group sat in front of the front door waiting on the Governor to return home. After a while the police picked off a few ADAPT people who tried jumping the fence and arrested them.

At about 4:00 pm, on a signal from our leadership, the ADAPT folks inside lined up along the 300 foot driveway, doubling back when we proved to be longer than the driveway. On cue we marched off the premises. The leaders had negotiated a meeting with the head of the state department of health and human services, and we still had one more card up our sleeve for the finale.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

The last day offered up perfect fall weather, bright and sunny, with a slight chill in the air. It was far from the bone numbing cold and damp of the day before. This was great because we knew we would be spending much of the day outside again. For the first time we were free of the lengthy shuttling, because our target was just two blocks up the street: the state capitol.

The day before the Michigan state militia had been here to protest U.N. Day. But while their message promoted isolationism, ours promoted inclusion and mainstreaming, allowing the many different individuals to enjoy and share, together in one community.

We marched up the main thorough-fare that took us directly to the main entrance to the state capitol. We had tried having Engler's political buddies make a meeting, we had tried waiting for him at his home. The only place left it seemed was his office -- so here we were.

(continued, p.12)

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AIR CARRIER ACCESS ACT OF 1986

by Steve Gold

Air travel for persons with disabilities is often a nightmare. Your "rights" not to be discriminated against are listed in 14 CFR subpart 382. Here is a summary of some of the highlights, based on frequently experienced discriminations.

It is illegal to require a person to accept 'special' services (including pre-boarding) not requested by the passenger.

Airlines cannot limit the number of persons with disabilities on a flight

They must all permit service dogs.

A disabled person must give 48 hours advance notice only if s/he:

- has a motorized wheelchair and plane seats less than 60.
- is traveling as a group of 10 or more.
- needs 'hazardous materials packaging' for a wheelchair battery.
- needs the following services available on flight: medical oxygen, carriage of incubator, hook up for respirator to plane's power supply, or travel in stretcher.

Airlines shall not require any person to have an attendant as condition of flying, even if that person will use inaccessible bathroom.

However, they may require an attendant - who flies for free - if person: travels in stretcher or with incubator, is unable to comprehend or respond to safety instructions, has a mobility impairment and is unable to assist in own evacuation, or has both severe hearing and vision disabilities and cannot establish communication adequate to explain safety procedures.

Air carrier personnel are not required to provide assistance in eating, restrooms or medical services.

Airlines cannot require a medical certificate (except if traveling in stretcher or incubator, needs medical oxygen during flight or may require extraordinary medical assistance during flight). Airlines shall provide assistance getting on and off plane and making flight connections, including use of ground and boarding wheelchairs. Also they shall not leave a person unattended in a wheelchair for more than 30 minutes if that person is not independently mobile.

They shall provide assistance getting on and off plane, in moving to and from bathroom if on-board wheelchair is required) and/or if person is semi-ambulatory (short of lifting or carrying the person.

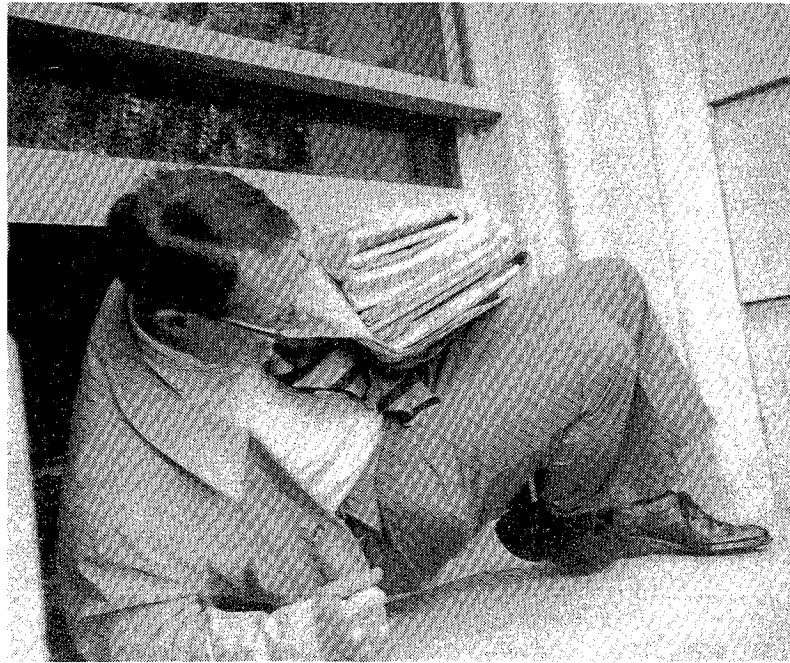
When disembarking, a person's wheelchair shall be returned as close as possible to the door of the plane. Wheelchairs shall be among the first items taken from the baggage compartment and their stowage given priority over cargo and baggage.

New aircraft (ordered after 1990 or delivered after June 1992) must provide:

- removable armrests on half of the aisle seats, and ensure persons can readily obtain such seats.
- priority space in the cabin for at least one folding wheelchair if there are over 100 seats on plane.
- on-board wheelchair if the plane has 60 or more seats (but advance request is necessary.)

If a wheelchair is disassembled for stowage, it must be returned to the owner in the same condition as it was received by the air carrier. Airline liability for a damaged wheelchair is limited to \$2,500. **IF YOUR WHEELCHAIR IS DAMAGED, DO NOT LEAVE THE AIRPORT UNTIL YOU HAVE FILED A CLAIM AND COMPLAINT WITH THE AIRLINE RESPONSIBLE.**

Legal requirements regarding whether a plane can



They literally climbed out windows at the MI state capitol. photo:C. Long

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS, cont. from p.11

remove\disconnect batteries is extremely complex and depends on the size of aircraft, type of battery, and condition of battery. (National PVA has some good booklets on this subject.)

Air carriers can not require a person sign a waiver of liability. They also cannot require that a person with a disability sit on blankets, nor require such a person to remain in a holding area to be provided transportation or receive assistance.

Airlines shall provide, on request, the following information: location of removable armrests, any limitation on plane's ability to accommodate, any limitation on availability of storage (whether in cabin or cargo area), and whether or not the plane has an accessible bathroom.

Each airline must have a complaint resolution official in each airport who has the authority to resolve violations on the spot. Each airline must respond to written complaints.

Formal complaints should be sent to the US DOT, Office of Consumer Affairs, 400 7th ST, SW, Washington, DC 20590, or telephone DOT at 202/366-2220.

LANSING, continued from p.10

Upon arrival, we lined up to listen to our leadership talk about our goals and to hear some recent escapees talk about living in the community versus existing in a nursing home or other institution. As our press conference ended, groups set out and took a side of the building.

GOVERNMENT SHUT DOWN ADAPT STYLE

Within minutes every door of the Capitol was blocked. Security was dumbfounded, as were the power-suited lobbyists and legislators who had tried to ignore our presence up until then. Soon we saw suits climbing in and out of the ground floor windows as they tried in

vain to go on with their business as if nothing had happened.

Just before 2 pm, when the Senate was due back in session, the police made an all out attempt and pulled one door open and used themselves to hold open a small passage so that people could enter and leave the building through that door. But what could have been better for ADAPT? Now everyone entering and exiting the building had to pass through our midst, hear our chants and get one of our flyers.

Engler still refused to meet and address our concerns, but he had heard us anyway. In fact we had made the Governor, the US Speaker of the House, the public and the state legislature very aware of our concerns. So we declared victory and marched back to our hotel to celebrate the end of another very successful series of national actions.

Governor Engler and his minions were so freaked by ADAPT they have tried to build us into a super-funded, militaristic band of terrorists for the media and general public. It is amazing the lengths some people will go to in order to save face. It is also interesting that within a week or so, Michigan ADAPT received an invitation to meet.

FUR FLIES IN MADISON

Wisconsin ADAPT has already taken up the attendant services issue with their Governor Tommy Thompson, who is also the new head of the National Governor's Association. Wisconsin ADAPT's actions are doubly important because not only is Thompson the leader of this national association, he is also making severe cuts in his state's attendant services programs.

January 1996 Wisconsin instituted a new cap on attendant services. If your services cost over a certain amount, you must go into a nursing home. There are exceptions made for certain groups, like vent users (the nursing homes don't want you if you cost too much or too much work), under 22 (you usually have a parent to help with most of your care anyway), or if you can get 10 nursing homes in your area to say they can't meet your needs -- and you have to go through this process every two months!

This is not a good omen of Thompson's national intentions. So Wisconsin ADAPT fights not only for folks in their state, but also to give Tommy and his administration a taste of the importance of these services to all people with disabilities. Folks from across the state have united with Steve Verriden, Norbert Holmblad, Jim Glozier and the rest of WI ADAPT, to battle against the cap.

"I'm a home-owner. I work full time. If this is implemented, I'm going to lose my home and job," protester Mike O'Conner told the press. "I grew up in an institution. I know what it's like. And I don't want to go back."

Literally hundreds of people, including university students with disabilities, have turned out for these protests which also target Department of Health and Social Services Secretary Leean. They even protested the Governor's Christmas Tree lighting ceremony and refused his offer to light the tree.

(continued next page)



Day leader Cassie James declares victory at Gov. Engler's house. Photo: Carolyn Long

PENNSYLVANIA ADAPT KEEPS THE PRESSURE ON

Pennsylvania's multiple ADAPT groups were knocking heads and taking names this past October. Fed up with the snails pace at which the state was moving to begin their new nursing home waiver program, 50 activists met at the Capitol and shut down the elevators. As the Patriot News put it, "Yesterday, they became militant, blocking elevators and forcing workers ... to use the stairs" until they forced a meeting with health and welfare officials who promised to pick up the pace. Another event brought "freedom rider" caravans from all corners of the state to the Capitol to push for a state accessible transportation bill. One of the event's organizers, Shona Roshel described the gathering as "awesome." And the activism did not stop there. After two friends died in a local hospital just after being transferred there from a notoriously shoddy city owned nursing home, ADAPT blocked the city health department offices until Commissioner Estelle Richman met with them and agreed to look into the deaths of Herb Williams and Keith David Lutz. Lutz "was sitting up in bed visiting people one day and he's dead the next. Business as usual" ADAPT organizer Cassie James told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. "Nobody seems to care. Why? Because they're disabled? Because they're poor?" she added.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING OFFICE GIVES HUD 232 PROGRAM THE THUMBS DOWN

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, 232 nursing home loan insurance program has lost millions of dollars, and is expected to lose many millions more. A Recent Government Accounting Office Report, HUD Management: Greater Oversight Needed of FHA's Nursing Home Insurance Program (GAO/RCED-95-214), adds further reason to support ADAPT's call to kill the 232 program. The GAO found that the program has already lost \$187 million in its 35 year history. Even more startling, the Federal Housing Administration (part of HUD), FHA, anticipates about \$724 million in additional losses. Although HUD justifies the program as targeting otherwise underserved groups, HUD does not collect or analyze data on those served by this program, nor -- according to this report -- do they adequately assess financial performance. The report also characterizes 232 expansion into Assisted Living Facilities (which has been highly promoted by the nursing home industry) as "potentially riskier loans, especially if FHA is unable to effectively underwrite insurance for the loans and monitor their performance." Of course AHCA's *Provider* magazine urges readers to take advantage of this pork barrel.



photo: Carolyn Long

FLYING FUR, continued from p.13

The Capitol Times reported that at one protest Leean said "taxpayers shouldn't have to pay to keep disabled people in the community if it would be cheaper for them to live in nursing homes."

Though some of the power-brokers are finally coming around, WI ADAPT plans to keep on the pressure until Governor Thompson agrees to stop cutting services. Forty more of them hit the House and Senate Majority Leaders in early January demanding to see them. A secretary of one said "He has appointments this afternoon, so he won't have time to see you." A quad facing going into a nursing home, said "Well he'll have to climb over us to get out."

What did HUD commit to ADAPT?

- 1) Holding a series 10 to 15 forums on getting rid of the 232 [nursing home mortgage insurance] program, and finding out what people with disabilities want and need in housing assistance.
- 2) Looking into having applicants research and submit a "community services impact statement" basically saying what impact the opening of their facility would have on community based services.
- 3) Retsinas writing HUD's Regional Representatives about our meeting and urging all to be involved in the forums and outreach to consumers with disabilities.

Secretary of HUD Henry Cisneros will join ADAPT in Houston in May to learn what we think of HUD guarantying loans to nursing homes and considering them housing for people with disabilities. >>>

NATIONAL ACTION COALITION FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS IN HOUSING

Those of you who have been involved in getting folks out of nursing homes and back in the community are well aware that lack of affordable, accessible housing is a chronic problem.

For much, much too long professionals and service providers have spoken for people with disabilities when it comes to housing. The federal department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, has come to consider these providers as the customers of HUD's programs and services. Residents with disabilities have once again become the crop, a means for others to make money. It's gotten so bad HUD even helps finance nursing homes.

The National Action Coalition for Disability Rights in Housing, NAC, tackles the problem head on. Recently ADAPT and NAC met with HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, and NAC got him to commit to: establish an Office on Disability within HUD; significantly change program requirements to increase the integration and independence of people with disabilities; and increase and improve enforcement of civil rights laws like Section 504, Fair Housing, and ADA. NAC is also working with ADAPT and HUD to put on a series of forums around the country.

If you'd like more information on housing issues and/or getting involved with the National Action Coalition for Disability Rights in Housing, contact Becca Vaughn c/o TILRC 501 SW Jackson, Suite 100-B, Topeka, KS 66603 or 913/233-4672 phone or 913/233-5072 fax.

HOUSING FORUMS TO BE HELD ACROSS THE NATION

As a direct result of ADAPT's attack on the federal department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, program to guaranty loans for building and renovating nursing homes (the 232 program), HUD will co-host with ADAPT and the National Action Coalition for Disability Rights in Housing, a series of forums on housing for people with disabilities.

Last June, ADAPT held a series of protests at HUD offices across the country, to let housing officials know -- in no uncertain terms, that ADAPT was appalled that HUD would consider nursing homes to be an acceptable housing alternative for folks with disabilities. As a direct result of these protests ADAPT won a September meeting with Nick Retsinas, head of the Housing section of HUD which oversees the 232 program, and some of his top staff. This was followed by a November meeting with HUD Secretary Cisneros. The forums will be held across the country this spring and summer and will provide another way to get folks out to talk about how our people are warehoused without options, how nursing homes are not acceptable as housing (any more than are hospitals and prisons) and how the federal government has no business helping to continue this travesty.

Possible resource for all you wannabe cyberspace explorers?

The Internet: What It Can and Can't Do for Activists
12 p. booklet by organizer with online experience provides perspectives beyond the hype. \$4.50 from Social Justice Connections, Dept. 7, PO Box 4090, Arlington, VA 22204. They want you to mention ADAPT or Incitement when ordering.

NM ADAPT TACKLES 6th LARGEST NURSING "HOME" EMPIRE

by Kevin Irvine

New Mexico's fledgling ADAPT chapter had its first two successful actions, in November. Fifty ADAPT members paid a visit to Sun Healthcare Group's corporate headquarters, in Albuquerque, to try and educate founder and CEO Andy Turner about CASA. Sun is the sixth largest nursing "home" operator in the country, with 1994 revenues of \$603 million. Sun is also being investigated by the FBI and the State Attorney General for Medicaid and Medicare fraud and for poor treatment of residents. Sun was tipped off, however, and we were met with 15 cops who used their cars to block Sun's driveways. A vocal protest ensued. Although ADAPT forced Sun top brass to meet, it was clear they were not used to such dialog and hold themselves above such mortal concerns.

The next day found NM ADAPT assembling outside the State Dept. of Health, in Santa Fe. In 1994 the DOH received funds from our state legislature to help adults with disabilities in moving out of nursing homes. While they dragged their feet, they lost both \$1.5 million in federal matching funds and new Governor, Gary Johnson, vetoed the language that targeted the funds. In a recent article about the boondoggle, Jeannette Keenan, Director of Long Term Care tried to excuse this fiasco by saying "This is an extremely difficult population to deal with." To our surprise, upon our arrival, Secretary of the DOH, Alex Valdez, stopped by and scheduled a meeting with us for later that day. Before we had even stepped in the door, we had accomplished one of our primary goals. ADAPT's arrival let Jeannette and the rest of the DOH officials know just how difficult we can be! In meetings with Valdez and other DOH bureaucrats, we received promises to consider the CASA and assurances that roadblocks to freedom would be removed. Valdez personally promised to educate Governor Johnson about attendant services and the CASA. These actions were carried off with the invaluable support of ADAPT members from Denver, Boulder and El Paso.

DEDICATED TO WADE

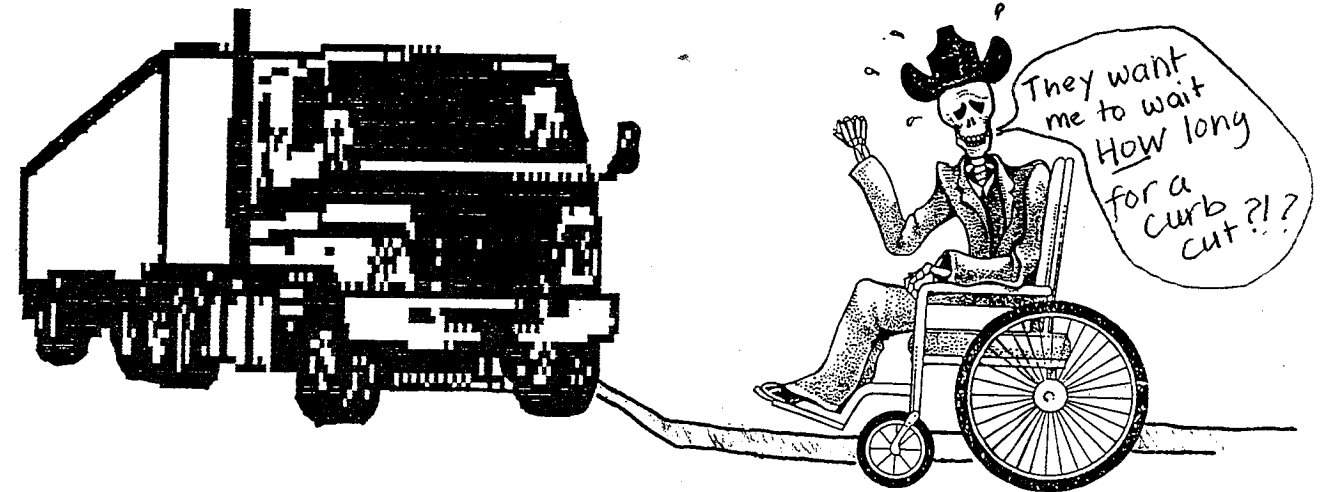
In a ceremony which was co-sponsored by the unlikely pair of Denver's public transit system, RTD, and the Atlantis Community, ADAPT's founder Wade Blank was honored. On August 20th ?? RTD's new Civic Center Station was dedicated to the memory of Wade Blank. The event was held in front of the station and dignitaries from Congresswoman Pat Schroeder to Federico Pena (via cassette tape), to a host of city and county officials. Atlantis and ADAPT activists Mel Conrardy and Mike Auberger told of Wade's role in bringing access to Denver's bus system. Later Molly, Caitlin and Heather Blank cut the ribbon and refreshments were served inside the station under a huge plaque depicting highlights of the fight for accessible RTD buses. This plaque will be a permanent fixture in the station as will a video loop showing more of the history of our struggle and Wade's role in it.



Sun Healthcare eclipsed by ADAPT. photo: NM ADAPT

PCA VICTORY IN MASS

Massachusetts ADAPT and CORD have a victory after four year campaign for pre-payment for PCA services. The state legislature approved the plan for all vendors in June. The significance? Without pre-payment, most new PCA users don't have access to funds to pay their PCAs, who themselves may not have the resources to work and then wait for pay for up to six weeks. Pre-payment will reduce hardship for hundreds each year and take away a significant access barrier.



WATERING DOWN THE ADA

Recent attacks have weakened our civil rights in two areas of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and we can be sure they are only the start. Around Christmas time, Congress passed the Highway bill with a little amendment added in the Conference Committee regarding Greyhound-type over the road coaches. Whereas over the road bus companies were to start buying all new buses with lifts this year and next, this amendment said that purchase of accessible buses will not be required

until two years after the US Department of Transportation, DOT, publishes their rules for access to this type of bus service. Although these rules were due a couple of years ago, they have not been published yet and there really is no target date in sight, so this state of limbo may remain for a while.

The other area ripe for weakening is the deadline for retrofitting existing curbs with curb cuts. Last year, presumably in response to whining from local government officials, several Congressional leaders who had lead the fight for the ADA, wrote the Justice Department, DOJ, asking them to amend their ADA rules to allow cities more time to ramp existing curbs. DOJ has recently come out with proposed regulations to do just that. The argument is that local governments did not have enough time or money to meet the current deadline of last January 26th. So, instead DOJ is now proposing a year 2000 deadline for business, government and downtown areas; and a year 2005 deadline for residential and other remaining areas.

Other likely ADA targets include access to Amtrak Trains and paratransit.

The misinformation about ADA which is spread, unchallenged, by the media, government officials and the business community is shocking. We can not allow their smears to go unanswered.

Cameo Video, in conjunction with ADAPT, is offering a comprehensive video collection. Entitled "The Independent Living Center Start Up Kit," it includes: Choices and Rights, Memorial in DC (for Wade and Lincoln), When You Remember Me, Chicago Week in Review, Plaque Dedication, Nashville Action, Las Vegas Newsletter, as well as the Atlantis Community Housing Project and the Atlantis Non-Profit Project. The collection costs \$150 plus \$12.50 shipping and handling. To order, or for more information contact:

Gordie Haug, Cameo Video,
303/744-6892 or fax 303/733-7698.

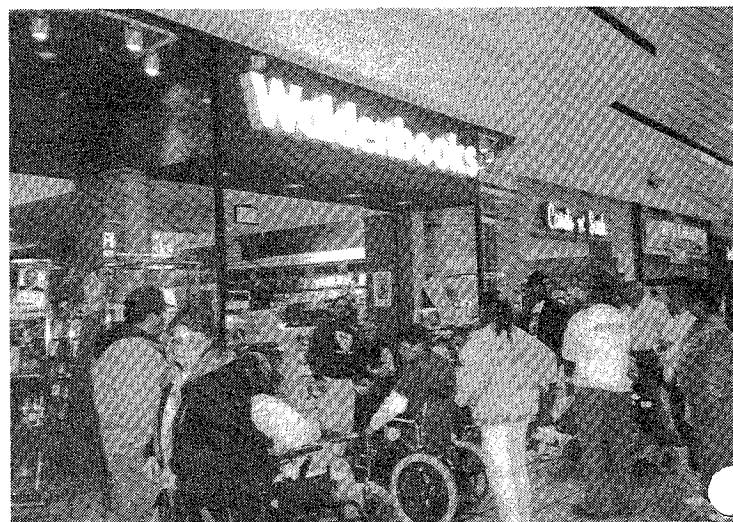
ADA VICTORIES

Toledo ADAPT at work. photo: OH ADAPT



HOW MANY YEARS DOES IT TAKE TO PUT IN A PARKING SPACE?

Chanting "five minutes, not five years" local ADAPTERS and their supporters liberated the downtown Topeka parking for ADA Day 1995 with a march a press conference and a literal "demonstration" painting the correct marking on the correct number of spaces. Pepper Daniels reports the city has -- surprise, surprise -- adopted a new attitude about complying with ADA. As WIBW Channel 13 said in their editorial on the protest "The City should have been more diligent. After all, the federal disabilities act [ADA] gave the city five years to comply."



ADAPT in Michigan. photo: C. Long

HOLY TOLEDO!

Northwest Ohio ADAPT hauled Toledo out on the carpet this summer for their lack of an ADA transition plan. A July protest won a meeting with the Mayor which they tape recorded and then gave to US Attorney General Janet Reno. When Reno came to town to visit the Community Policing facilities which receive federal funds but are not accessible, ADAPT was there and able to chase the General down. This led to personal follow up phone calls from Reno herself and a request, which local ADAPTERS quickly fulfilled, to send documentation to the Justice Department.

WE HAD NO IDEA ...

Arkansas ADAPT has been radicalizing parents of kids with disabilities. Fed up with shoddy, unsafe and illegal school transit, parents took ADAPT's lead and showed up at the Little Rock School District bus terminal at the crack of dawn. Two mothers slipped a chain through the gates and padlocked them shut. Parents' and bus drivers' letters, testimony, and phone calls to the Little Rock school district had gone ignored. Well one thing about ADAPT tactics, they are hard to ignore. The district director for support services cried uncle and agreed to the parents timelines for seeking a solution.

OIL PATCH ACCESS

Beaumont Texas also seems to need a little help complying with the ADA, even five years after the law passed! That help came on the wheels of Bruce James and the lawsuit Advocacy Inc helped him to file. Kicking and moaning it seems, Jefferson County -- where Beaumont is located -- employees will have about half the facilities finished within six months and the rest within two years. Access to the jails there seems to be a sticking point. Wonder if they're looking to lock up trouble makers like James?

"UNFUNDED MANDATE" THREAT TO ADA & IDEA REMAINS

Although the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, was exempted from legislation passed last year because it is a civil rights law, it has not escaped the unfunded mandates crusade. As part of this same law, Congress charged the Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations, ACIR (a Congressionally and Presidentially appointed committee made up of state and local governmental officials), with evaluating the effects of numerous federal laws.

ACIR took this as a chance to attack the ADA, IDEA (the Individuals with Disabilities Education

Act) and the Family Medical Leave Act, among others. Indeed, ADA and IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) are two of the main targets of this committee. In a draft report released at the end of January, this Committee, after giving lip service to these laws, recommended that compliance with ADA and IDEA become essentially voluntary, with each state and local government choosing what access they will provide, and by when. This report goes on to advocate doing away with private right of action (individuals' right to sue for compliance.)

When the report was released several of the committee members held a press conference at which they specifically brought up the ADA curb cut issue. Mayor Rendell of Philadelphia, one of the spokespeople, illustrated ACIR's concerns with the burdens of ADA, by spouting blatant misinformation about costs and timelines for a recent court settlement against his city. ADAPT folks, in town for a "Justice for All" disability advocacy meeting, got the rest of the group to join them in taking over the lobby of the hotel where

ACIR was meeting. The group demanded their support of ADA.

ACIR was holding a conference and hearing on this report the first week in March, and supposedly will be taking comments from the public. ADA advocates across the nation are taking on ACIR members, and the outcry has been enough to delay the hearing until March 26th. Even the

White House has written ACIR to object to their recommendations on ADA and IDEA.

FIGHT BACK AGAINST ATTACKS ON ADA AND IDEA IF YOU DON'T, WHO WILL?

It is time to intensify our response. The attackers are on the defensive and squashing this attack could prevent others.

To submit comments to ACIR call 202/653-5540 or fax 202/653-5429.

Commission members include:
 Private Citizens: Peter Lucas, MA Bay Transit Authority, Boston; Richard Nathan, Nelson Rockefeller Inst. of Gov., Albany NY; William Winter, former Gov & Snr Partner Watkins, Ludlam & Stennis, Jackson MS;
 US Senators: Bob Graham, FL; Dirk Kempthorne, ID; Craig Thomas, WY;
 US House of Representatives: James Moran, VA; Donald Payne, NJ;
 Executive Branch Officers: Carol Browner, EPA; Marcia Hale, President's Asst & Intergovernmental Affairs; Richard Riley, DOE;
 Governors: Arne Carlson, MN; Howard Dean, VT; Michael Leavitt, UT; Bob Miller, NV
 Mayors: Victor Ashe, Knoxville TN; Gregory Lashutka, Columbus OH; Edward Rendell, Philadelphia PA; Bruce Todd, Austin TX;
 State Legislators: Paul Burke, KS Senate; Art Hamilton, AZ House of Reps.;
 County Officials: Randall Franke, Marion Co. OR; Gloria Molina, LA CA; John Stroger Cook Co. IL

ADA CASES NOT FLOODING COURTS:

According to a Dept. of Justice survey of the federal courts found only 650 lawsuits have been filed under the entire law. That's 13 suits per state or 108 per year on average.

DAN & DPI DEMONSTRATE FOR ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION

WE WILL RIDE VICTORIES ALL AROUND THE WORLD!!!

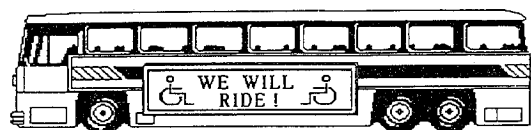
by Johnny Crescendo & Shoji Nakanishi

Victory in England! Disability Access Network, DAN, organized a masterful series of protests in Birmingham last fall at the national convention of their association of private over-the-road-coach type bus systems. About 100 protesters infiltrated the convention, some even handcuffing themselves to all 15 doors in the convention hall. So masterful was their protest at the convention, the association agreed that from then on, they would buy only buses with lifts! Not bad by any standards! DAN also reports that the public National Coach is also coming around on the idea of access to their vehicles. But DAN is not stopping there... they also took time in Birmingham to hit the rail stations in town, crawling up steps, blocking turnstiles and the like. When the cops thought they had all the protesters corralled at the station, others would jump off incoming trains, having ridden in from other stations around town.

Meanwhile, Disabled People's International, DPI, Thailand has very successfully completed the first stage of their campaign for an accessible environment in Thailand. Over 200 protesters -- brandishing posters, bull horns and the like -- gathered at the Democracy Monument in Bangkok on November 27th, and marched to city hall to demand access to public transportation. Bangkok officials admitted they had completely overlooked access for people with disabilities in the Tanayong electric train project which is scheduled for completion in 1988. Bangkok Governor told protesters that the city and the transit corporation would investigate how access could be provided and negotiate covering related costs. The Deputy City Clerk told the press this was the first time Thailand had considered the needs of the disabled.

DPI - Japan held their annual campaign for accessibility demonstration last December 3, with

campaigns on the same day. This being their 9th year of activism, the Ministry of Transportation now seeks DPI's advice on access and is no longer hostile to them.



CHINA OR BUST ADAPT ACTIVISTS CROSS THE GREAT WALL

by Robin Stephens

Question: What do you do when 300 disabled women from all over the world come to Beijing China for a Women's Conference and 50 hold a protest because the conference has no access?

Answer: Take away their accessible bus!

That's what happened in China this summer when Robin Stephens, Laura Hershey and others abandoned the comforts of home and their electric wheelchairs to join thousands of women in China to discuss women's issues.

WE WON! They let us have our "accessible" bus and they tried to create the Chinese brand of curb cuts --- bricks and boards!

In the meantime, the world's women got educated about some of the access issues that face disabled women around the world.

China was fun, exhausting, interesting. Best of all, we made many international friends and learned "there's no place like home" access-wise!

[Editor's note: A few encouraging calls to Robin could ensure a fascinating slide show from her and Laura at the spring action in Houston this May.]

WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY...

Disappointing, to say the least, were some of Michigan's "Handicapper" organizations' reactions to the Lansing action. The Michigan Association of Rehabilitation Organizations, MARO, wrote an open letter to the *Lansing State Journal*, just to let everyone know that they "took exception" to ADAPT style protests. It was a classic example of know your place and stay in it, bless you for these crumbs style advocacy. Not surprisingly, MARO, which claims to represent "more than 60 employment training and rehabilitation agencies throughout the state" is not consumer directed. The letter boasts their board "voted unanimously" to "condemn the protest activities of ADAPT." Big hearted as they are, MARO ended with a tentative olive branch: "when ADAPT is ready to engage in proactive, positive advocacy, we are willing to discuss a common strategy." So shall we all sit in a circle sipping tea with our pinky fingers properly extended as Engler patterned block granting of benefits at the state and federal levels slashes away at the clientele's meager supports? How many MARO members are willing to provide their services for SSI level pay so people with disabilities do not have to lose these essential services when funding is slashed? At least MARO made their statement publicly.

Even more pathetic was the Michigan Association of Centers for Independent Living letter to Mrs Engler dated November 1, 1995 proclaiming their "profound regret at the ADAPT action" at the Governor's home. Ironically it was one of the MACIL leadership who, days earlier, confirmed the address of the Governor's home and offered to bring hot cider to the protesters. Although people from at least four Michigan centers participated in this ADAPT action, MACIL goes on to claim they represent all 11 MI centers for independent living centers. All these centers were not consulted and it is questionable how many of the 11 centers even knew such a message was being sent. Unctuously, MACIL goes on "The sanctity of the home and family is something we advocate daily" to protect, MACIL leadership proclaim in their fawning effort

to kiss up to the Governor's wife. "Mrs. Engler, we were saddened and disgusted with the actions of those who participated in this action."

It is true Mrs Engler did a masterful job of media manipulation when she grabbed center stage as the injured mother, back to the wall, ready to fight to the death to protect her offspring. This self-righteous stance was the perfect cover to draw media attention away from her husband and his hurtful policies.

Did the Governor's people demand this letter from state disability organizations? Or was this groveling behavior self initiated?

What hope do people with disabilities have when our leadership feel the need to so blatantly and pathetically brown nose the politicians in this way?

Are we waiting until we are told to find sanctuary from some church or charity? To consider assisted suicide? What about the sanctity of the homes and families of those of us slated for the institutions? Or is the real message that some are more equal than others?

"You deplore the demonstrations that are presently taking place in Birmingham. But I am sorry that your statement did not express a similar concern for the conditions that brought the demonstrations into being. I am sure that each of you would want to go beyond the superficial social analyst who looks merely at effects, and does not grapple with underlying causes."

Dr Martin Luther King, Jr Letter from Birmingham City Jail, 1963

PASSAGES

Another ADAPT warrior George Florum died suddenly this summer, leaving another hole in our lives. George, whose graveley voice was often heard with some witty remark at the tensest moments of an action, could always be counted on in the heat of the battle. Despite ongoing hassels with health problems, George and his wife Anita took the fight for disability rights beyond the ADAPT actions and into all corners of life. Nor was he shy about taking on the hypocrisy within the disability community!

Also gone is Scott Heckendorf of Chicago. After many months of health troubles his pancreas gave out. A quiet one, Scott would appear right when needed in the midst of a protest, and yet it seemed he was ready to wait a hundred years -if necessary- to ensure some side door of a building under ADAPT assault would remain closed.

Ann Galmeyer, formerly of AR and more recently of OR, also died this summer. Things had not been going well for her for a while. We will miss her at the actions and her help in keeping this stirred up on the home fronts.

We lost another dear friend and ADAPTER from Arkansas this fall. Little Rock's Toni Stanley died October 13th. Toni was a hard worker and a fun party person. Ironically, Toni, who was a Dean's List student in college (among other honors), double majored in sociology and criminal justice. Her contributions to ADAPT have been great and she will be missed a lot.

Randy Harbert, creator of ADAPT's FREE OUR PEOPLE logo and many other beautiful designs is also gone. Randy brought so much creativity and so many good feelings into the lives of those he knew, it is hard to say goodbye. But his artistic contributions will remain with us, as will our memories of him.

Another loss to disability advocates, was the death of Elizabeth Boggs. An early and ongoing contributor to the struggle for disability rights, her power politics on behalf of people with developmental disabilities, especially, led to many of the advances we enjoy today.

Can you use some good news? Cecil Rawlins of Georgia ADAPT has moved out of his detested nursing home and into his own apartment! The same is true of Leonard Roscoe who spoke at our Michigan state Capitol press conference. In fact in the last several months Georgia ADAPT reports that 39 others either moved out or were kept out of nursing homes.

Also, Lori Eastwood, is now the thoroughly proud and delighted mother of a beautiful daughter Randi Marie Eastwood!

We can also look forward to some celebrations this spring and summer! Specifically, Claude Holcomb and Juliette Meyers, and Shona Roshel and Mike Eaken will be celebrating, so be ready with congratulations in Houston and Atlanta.

Announcing:

ADAPT will soon have a home page on the internet!

To find out more you'll have to use the old fashioned methods for just a bit longer.

Contact Robin Stephens at 303/333-6698

or snail mail her at ADAPT

PO Box 9598

Denver, CO 80209

FEEL LIKE I'M WANTIN' TO DIE RAG

words by David Wittie

(Sung to the tune of Country Joe McDonald's Feel Like I'm Fixin' to Die Rag)

I found myself feelin' down and out,
No need to cry, no need to pout.
I've given all I've got to give.
Found I just don't want to live.
No, I can't run and I can't hide.
I'm thinking 'bout suicide.

Chorus: And its one, two, three what am I suffering for?
I don't want to live. I don't give a damn.
Call Dr. Kevorkian.
And it's five, six, seven, it's misery that I hate.
(Well now) Ain't got no time to whine and cry.
WHOOPEE - I'm gonna die.

I woke up one morning and who'd of guessed?
My doctor says I've got MS,
Polio and CP
Could be worse. Could be VD
Don't worry if you're feeling ill.
Have you ever seen the BIG CHILL?

Chorus

Come on all you crips and gimps.
Don't chicken out. Don't be no wimps.
Take a chance. Fulfill your dream.
Step right up to the Death Machine.
It's easier than you might of thought.
Drop your money there in the slot.

Chorus

In the final analysis,
What's the point of paralysis?
Think about it, you can end it all
With one big shot of Pentothal.
As you take your final breath
You owe it all to Doctor Death.

Chorus

Remember, when you're looking back,
The Ripper's name was also Jack.

This is progress? Land Sakes Alive:
"Now serving number twenty-five."
They're lining up all day and night.
Will the last one please turn out the lights?

(shout) Hey Jack!

You gave up on your Hippocratic.
You should build your own veg-o-matic.
Better get ready to meet your maker
Or an underpaid, overworked undertaker.
Don't worry 'bout the ones you leave behind.
We'll all get along just fine.

CHORUS

last line: WHOOPEE - I'm gonna, your gonna,
We're all gonna die!

