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CBFL [Coalition for Barrier Free Living] Board/Minutes [1975-1979] [1]

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CBFL Board Members
1979

President

Joyce Frieden
9667 Meadowvale
Houston, Tx. 77063
Home 781-8949

Vice-President

John McKinney - Systems analysis at Penzoil
1039 Francitas
Houston, Tx. 77038
Home 445-0497
Work 236-7004

Recording Secretary

Lynn Wilson- Grad. student at Texas Research Institute of
7670 Phoenix #1501 Mental Science
Houston, Tx. 77030
Home 797-9682
Work 797-1976 ext. 209

Corresponding Secretary

Devalca White - Receptionist at the Easter Seal Center
5023 Grape
Houston, Tx. 77096
Home 667-8079
Work 526-1651

Treasurer

Robert Juarez - Personnel and Staff Development Director
9626 Jaywood
Houston Tx. 77040
Home 466-9659
Work 659-7257

The Committees

Architectural Barriers

Bob Kafka - Executive Director of Texas Paralyzed Veterans
2312 Commonwealth #8 Of America
Houston, Tx. 77006
Home 522-9516
Work 526-1952

Social Action

Duke Conley
5151 S. Willow #127
Houston, Tx. 77035
Home 721-6953

Employment

Joe Kramberg- Texas Rehabilitation Commission Counselor
2910 Sunset
Houston, Tx. 77005
Home 661-9886
Work 526-8511

Consumer and Medical Affairs

Dr. Lauro Halstead - Associate Professor for Baylor College,
Preventive and Physical Medicine
4111 Martinshire
Houston, Tx. 77025
Home 661-7042
Work 797-1440

Transportation

Christy Davidson - Social Worker at the Cerebral Palsy Center
6203 Marinette #112A
Houston Tx. 77036
Home 522-1051
Work 772-6689

Housing

Vicki Sorrells Coordinator of Staff Associates for New Options
5151 S. Willow #143
Houston, Tx. 77035
Home 729-2410
Work 797-1440 ext. 535

Public Relations

Nita Weil Director of Volunteers at TIRR
1800 Holcomb #115
Houston Tx. 77030
Home 790-1981
Work 797-1440 ext. 375

Education

Shiela Richmond Occupational Therapist for the Texas Educational
Agency
1531 Yale
Houston, Tx. 77008
Home 861-7230
Work 691-4521

Membership

Don Rossi - Research Associate at TIRR
5226 Holly
Bellaire, Tx. 77401
Home 665-4349
Work 797-1440 ext. 297

Fundraising

Harvey Janelli

At Large Visually Impaired

Jim Beeson President of the American Council for the Blind
3107 Pecan St.
Houston Tx. 77087
Home 641-0095

At Large Hearing Impaired

Dale Black Benefits Administrator at the Shamrock Hilton
7232 Staffordshire #4
Houston, Tx. 77030
Work 668-9211 ext. 295

Ex-Officio Board Members

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) - Vicki Sorrells
American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities
Lex Frieden - New Options Research Director
9667 Meadowvale
Houston, Tx, 77063
Home 781-8949
Work 797-1440 ext. 504

COALITION FOR
BARRIER FREE LIVING
P. O. Box 20803
HOUSTON, TX. 77025

Lex Frieden
9661 Meadowvale
Houston, TX. 77063

COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING

9779

BYLAWS

CHAPTER I NAME AND PURPOSE

Article 1 The name of the organization shall be the Coalition for Barrier Free Living, (also referred to as "CBFL").

Article 2 The purpose of the CBFL shall be to minimize the barriers that obstruct the handicapped individual from achieving the equality of opportunity and respect due every human being.

Article 3 A handicapped individual is one who is or has been a consumer of rehabilitation services as defined by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

CHAPTER II MEMBERSHIP

Article 1 An "Individual" member is one who participates in committee activities and who either,

- a) has paid annual dues in the amount of \$5.00 in the last year, or
- b) has been accepted without payment of dues because of financial inability.

Article 2 A "Family" or "Associate" member is a family unit or a formally organized group of persons who have paid annual dues in an amount of at least \$25.00 but less than \$200.00 in the last year.

Article 3 A "Supporting" member is any person or organization who has paid annual dues in an amount of at least \$200.00 but less than \$500.00 in the last year.

Article 4 A "Sustaining" member is any person or organization who has paid annual dues in an amount of at least \$500.00 but less than \$1000.00 in the last year.

Article 5 A "Benefactor" is any person or organization who has paid at least \$1000.00 in annual dues in the last year.

Article 6 An "active" member is any member described in the articles above who has not been declared inactive. Only active members may hold elective office or serve as committee head.

Article 7 Each active member shall exercise the right of one vote.

Article 8 Any member composed of more than one individual must designate in writing a representative to exercise any rights or privileges granted to members.

Article 9 An "Honorary" member is any person or organization who has been awarded that title by the Board of Directors or the General Assembly for rendering exceptional service to CBFL or its

stated goals.

Article 10 An "Inactive" member is any member who has defaulted in promises of committee activities and may be treated as an inactive member in every respect but the title of "member".

CHAPTER III BODIES

Article 1 There shall be established as the principal bodies of CBFL: a General Assembly, composed of all active members, and an elected Board of Directors (also referred to as the "Board").

Article 2 There shall be established auxiliary bodies and positions as may be found necessary from time to time by the President; these bodies and positions are subject to approval by a simple majority of the Board.

CHAPTER IV THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 1 The General Assembly shall consist of all the members present at a general meeting. A general meeting is any meeting open to all members, provided that all active members have been given reasonable notice of such meeting.

Article 2 The General Assembly has the power to overturn any decision of the Board by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Article 3 A simple majority vote of the General Assembly will be sufficient to decide all issues unless other wise stated in these bylaws.

Article 4 The General Assembly may meet in special sessions as occasion may require. Special sessions may be called either:

- a) by the President, or
- b) by an active member upon written request of the simple majority of the Board, or
- c) by one quarter (1/4) of the active members.

CHAPTER V THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article 1 The General Assembly shall elect all members of the Board of Directors. The Board shall consist of 18 positions, 2/3 of which must be handicapped. All active members shall reasonably notified of the time and place of Board member elections and the notice shall include the nature of the meeting.

Article 2 Elections shall be held in March of each year for the following positions for a term of one year ending the following March: a) President, b) Second Vice President, c) Corresponding Secretary, and chairpersons for the a) Architectural Barriers, b) Education, c) Fundraising, d) Housing, e) Public Relations, f) Volunteer Coordination, committees.

Article 3 Elections shall be held in September of each year for the following positions for a term of one year ending the following September: a) First Vice President, b) Recording Secretary, c) Treasurer, and chairpersons for the a) Communications

Barriers, b) Consumer and Medical Affairs, c) Employment, d) Legislative, e) Membership, f) Transportation, committees.

Article 4 The Board shall determine the eligibility and class of members in case of ambiguity or omission in these Bylaws. The Board shall have the power to suspend members from any position including active membership, for repeated violation of these Bylaws.

Article 5 The Board shall meet monthly at a designated time and place.

Article 6 The Board shall approve or disapprove of all expenditures incurred on behalf of the CBFL in amounts exceeding \$100.00.

Article 7 The Board shall fill any vacated Board position other than that of President or First Vice President.

CHAPTER VI THE COMMITTEES

Article 1 There shall be established the following standing committees: a) Architectural Barriers, b) Communication Barriers, c) Consumer and Medical Affairs, d) Education, e) Employment, f) Fundraising, g) Housing, h) Legislative, i) Membership, j) Public Relations, k) Transportation, l) Volunteer Coordination.

Article 2 Additional adhoc committees shall be formed that relate to the purpose of the CBFL.

Article 3 Any committee other than a standing one may be dissolved by a simple majority vote of the Board.

Article 4 Each committee may set a reasonable time and place of its meetings.

Article 5 Each chairperson shall have the responsibility for the minutes of each committee meeting and reporting to the Board and the General Assembly of its activities.

CHAPTER VII THE OFFICERS

Article 1 There shall be established a Presidency, First Vice Presidency, Second Vice Presidency, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. The positions of President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President shall be filled by handicapped members.

Article 2 The President shall: a) be the Chief Executive officer of the CBFL and the Board, b) have the prerogative of all executive duties not designated to other persons, c) preside at all meetings of the General Assembly and the Board, d) have a vote on the Board only in the event of a tie, e) be an ex-officio member of all committees, f) be limited to two consecutive terms.

Article 3 The First Vice President shall: a) be supportive and helpful in all executive duties of the President, b) perform

all duties and exercise all powers of the President, in the absence of the President, c) succeed to the Presidency in case of a vacancy in that office and serve out that term.

Article 4 The Second Vice President shall: a) be supportive and helpful in all executive duties of the President and First Vice President, b) perform all duties and exercise all powers of the First Vice President, in the absence of the First Vice President, c) succeed to the First Vice Presidency in case of a vacancy in that office and serve out that term.

Article 5 The Treasurer shall: a) be the Chief Fiscal Officer of the CBFL, b) receive all funds paid to the CBFL and shall deposit such funds in such banks as the Board designates, c) pay all bills for expenditures of the CBFL after those bills have been certified and approved by the appropriate authority, d) keep or cause to be kept in suitable form, detailed accounts of the assets, liabilities, receipts and disbursements of the CBFL e) render financial reports at all General Assembly and Board meetings.

Article 6 The Recording Secretary shall: a) be responsible for the recording of all minutes of all General Assembly and Board meetings; b) be responsible for the recording of attendance at all General Assembly and Board meetings.

Article 7 The Corresponding Secretary shall: a) take care of correspondence pertaining to transactions of the CBFL (i.e. Thank-you cards, Sympathy cards), b) give proper notice of all regular meetings of the General Assembly and Board to those relevant members.

CHAPTER VIII FINANCE

Article 1 The CBFL shall be a non-profit organization.

Article 2 Any expense incurred in behalf of the CBFL not exceeding \$100.00 shall have prior approval of the President. Expenditures exceeding \$100.00 shall have prior approval of the Board.

Article 3 The CBFL may upon a simple majority vote of the Board accept dues, gifts, grants, contracts, and make and let contracts in connection with the operations of the CBFL.

Article 4 No person who holds an elective office shall be salaried by the CBFL.

Article 5 Official signatories of CBFL shall be a dual signature of any two of the following listed officers: a) President, b) First Vice President, c) Second Vice President, d) Treasurer.

CHAPTER IX RECORDS

Article 1 All records shall be maintained in the CBFL office or in a place designated by the Board.

Article 2 The financial and membership records shall be audited annually by a qualified individual or agency, upon approval of the Board.

Article 3 All records of the CBFL may be inspected by any member upon reasonable request.

CHAPTER X FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the CBFL shall commence on the first day of October, each year, and shall end on the last day of September of the following year.

CHAPTER XI PARLIMENTARIAN AUTHORITY

Article 1 Unless otherwise stated in these Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, revised latest edition, shall govern the meetings of the CBFL, to the extent reasonably possible.

Article 2 A Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the President with majority approval of the Board.

CHAPTER XII VOTING

Article 1 All votes, of all Bodies, shall be decided by simple majority unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws.

Article 2 A quorum shall consist of one-fourth of the active members of the relevant body.

Article 3 Each member of a body present at any meeting of such a body shall be entitled to submit only one written authorization to vote for a non-attending active member, for each and any issue requiring a vote. All authorizations must be in writing and must be specific in issue unless 2/3 of the present body members permit the authorization to be general in nature.

CHAPTER XIII NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Notice of any general assembly meeting where a vote is to be considered shall state the time and place and shall be post marked no later than two weeks prior to such a meeting.

CHAPTER XIV REPRESENTATION

No individual or group other than the President may represent the CBFL to any other individual or organization unless appointed by the President or the Board.

CHAPTER XV DISSOLUTION OF THE CBFL

Article 1 The CBFL may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly at a special meeting specifically called for such purpose.

Article 2 Upon dissolution, all assets remaining after paying the CBFL obligations shall be distributed by the General Assembly to any organization sharing the purpose stated in Chapter 1, Article 2.

CHAPTER XVI AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the present Bylaws shall come into force for all members of the CBFL when they have been adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the General Assembly. Notice of a vote on these Bylaws or any other issue of the General Assembly is automatically waived if a simple majority of all active members is present.

CHAPTER XVII RATIFICATION

These Bylaws have been amended, accepted, and ratified in a General Assembly meeting.

President _____

Secretary _____

Date _____

COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING
A VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION - CBFL

Prepared for
MICRO-MACRO SYSTEMS

Prepared by
GUY F. BELL

November 27, 1977

COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING

A VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION - CBFL

The Coalition for Barrier Free Living is a young, non-profit, voluntary citizen organization, consisting of handicapped and non-handicapped members, dedicated to the removal of both architectural and attitudinal barriers. There are several reasons for picking this organization as the subject for this paper. As a matter of academics, the CBFL is an interesting mixture of observations and theories of the major writers on community organizations. Furthermore, the CBFL is a locally based organization which has recently received much local mass media coverage in their attempts to obtain their goals from several public agencies. In order to create a frame of reference, it seems appropriate to begin this paper with a survey of the observations, definitions, and classifications of major writers on organizations and determine to what degree they are applicable to the CBFL. The paper will then turn to discussion of the membership, goals, issues, and problem-solving strategies of the CBFL. The conclusion will include some suggested changes for improvement as well as a brief summary.

There is quite a variety of definitions and classifications in the writings on organizations primarily due to the mixture of functions and strategies of various organizations. However, a consensus of the various writers does yield some general agreement on broad categorizations. Perlman and Guirn broadly categorize all organizations as (1) voluntary associations, (2) service agencies, and (3) planning organizations. The definition which is relevant to the CBFL states that, "Voluntary Associations cover a wide variety of groups and organizations based on a membership whose common interests is in achieving some change or improvement in social arrangements, institutions, or relationships".(1) Ohlin

describes the function of all voluntary citizen organizations generally:

"In recent years, we have renewed emphasis on the necessity of such involvement to preserve a pluralistic society. Such ideological restatements rest on the premise that the health and growth of a democratic system require constant creation of new channels for the articulation, aggregation, and communication of the unrepresented interests of sub-merged segments of the population at those points of decision which materially affect their welfare." (2)

Furthermore, Ohlin notes the functions of voluntary organizations for society as:

1. Successful indigenous movements redistribute and broaden the basis of social power and the exercise of authority. By ^{limiting} limiting the arbitrary use of power or the development of exploitative practices, they reduce pressures toward deviance.
2. They heighten the personal investment of members in the established social order. In promoting personal satisfaction and a larger personal commitment and contribution, they enhance social stability, control, and morale.
3. They provide an arena for the training and recruitment of leaders for higher levels of organizational participation.
4. They promote a more flexible fit of the rule systems of major social institutions to the distinctive life styles of the local community. By facilitating such accommodations, indigenous organizations protect the heterogeneity and cultural richness of the society and provide a broader base for cultural growth in many fields. By fostering the proliferation of subcultures or local styles of life, they furnish a buffer to the conformity demands of a mass society. By enlarging tolerance for certain forms of deviance, constructive channels are preserved for dissent. (3)

Perlman and Gurin supplement the list of functions of voluntary organizations by adding integration of individuals and groups with the larger society, promotion of change, and redistribution of resources. (4) The degree to which voluntary organization performs any or all of the above functions depends on several variables of organizational analysis. Some of these include social class, activities of social ^{action} ~~action~~, and community development and goals, and formal structure. Application of these variables to CBFL will be made later.

Social class significantly determines differences between voluntary organizations. Erbe notes that there is more participation in voluntary organizations among "urban residents, among those in the prime of life, among the married-with-children, among those moving up in the class system, among those with residential stability, and especially among people of more education and high socioeconomic status". (5) Perlman and Gurin note several differences between lower and middle-

MIDDLE-CLASS

class, have resources which gives them greater economic and political influence. The reasons for this are obvious. The middle-class voluntary organizations usually have the skills of communication, "the technical and professional skills" of members of the organization itself and greater abilities to "collect funds for employing professional staff, for obtaining office space, and for printing educational and promotional literature". In addition, the middle class is more apt to have personal acquaintance with politics and influential personages in that context. Interestingly enough, this idea brings up the observation that middle class group goals are often suggested to be "in the public interest" in order to avoid association with the stigma attached to lower class groups of asking for benefits at the expense of everyone else. (6)

When dealing academically with the concepts of community development and social action, the literature approaches each as independent fields of activity possessing their own practice, purposes, and strategies. However, it should be ~~noted~~ ^{noted} that most voluntary organizations exhibit a combination of characteristics of both activities. An explanation for this lies in the fact that each voluntary organization has a number of variables which effect or determine the strategies needed to attain the desired goals. A few of these variables are (1) resources of the organization, (2) responses to strategies used in the past, and (3) whether the goals desired are long or short term in nature. As will be noted later in this paper, the CBFL employs both activities in their problem-solving strategies.

Perlman and Gurin's descriptions of both activities is brief yet comprehensive enough to warrant consideration.

"The thrust of community development is to generate changes in attitudes, relationships, and behavior among people at the local or community level. Its major strategy is to develop self-help activities and to foster wide participation in them in the hope that people will be convinced through their own experiences that collective effort is necessary, desirable, and effective as a way of making improvements in their lives. The attainment of immediate and concrete objectives is seen primarily as a step toward the long-range goals of building a sense of community and understanding among people and groups. Community development stresses collaboration, not opposition or conflict". (7)

The literature on community development is massive, inconsistent, and indefinite. Two other characteristics often attributed to this field of activity are (1) community education aimed at the participants and society-at-large, and (2) the ideological commitment to self-determination which has recently been challenged by the tendency to expand community development to state and national levels.

Turning to social action, Perlman and Gurin point out that,

"While community development programs have placed the emphasis on social change through self-help, the thrust of social action programs has been to seek changes in structural arrangements that govern the distribution of rights, privileges, and resources. Social action is directed at institutional targets in order to accomplish such changes as the passage of legislation, modifications in programs or practices of an organization, and increases in benefits accruing to a particular group".(8)

These writers also note a change in the use of social action. The term has been used traditionally in describing "middle-class and professional groups operating at local, state, and national levels to further specific objectives", but within the last ten years "the term has become associated more specifically with the organizations of disadvantaged people in low-income areas, in a context that seeks institutional change and that typically employs strategies of confrontation, conflict, and ^{negotiation} ~~negociation~~".(9)

Although goals and formal structure of organizations may be ^{received} ~~recieved~~ as separate entities, this discussion will combine them since the variables are often intimately related in practice. Goals are the desired outcome of an organization's existence. Formal structure establishes the means of accomplishing goals by (1) defining and categorizing goals, (2) authorizing and allocating tasks and power to the organization's leadership, and (3) determining how resources will be collected and spent. The number of problems that must be met to obtain the organization's goal effects allocation of power and influence in the formal structure. On the other hand, the degree of agreement on problem priorities within the formal structure effects goals. Also, the question of whether the goals are "individual mobility goals" or "group mobility goals" will determine if the organization will have a service or political orientation. Blum takes this point as a factor in determining an organization's probable success in reaching its goal since group mobility goals are contradictory to the American ideology of individualism.(10) At any rate, the above generality is as relative as it is academic in that most organizations, regardless of emphasis, embrace both individual and group mobility goals, as well as make use of services and politics. One other point which Sills observed is the degree of autonomy an organization has from financial-sponsoring organizations. An inference on this possibility may sometimes be drawn from an organization's laws on financing.

Hopefully, this will be noted in the following discussion concerning the CBFL's membership and the strategies employed in confronted problems.

^{After} After completing the academic discussion as a base for reference, it is time to turn to the organization under consideration. It seems appropriate to take a slightly historical approach with the CBFL in order to understand the problems which brought the organization into existence, the membership, the goals, the strategies, and successes and failures in the problem-solving process. Besides, combining the history of the CBFL's progress with the theories of organization analysts will hopefully aid in the final evaluation.

Some may feel that a problem analysis of the handicapped is foolish in that the problem is blatantly obvious - the handicap is the problem. The truth is, however, that problem analysis of the handicapped is so woefully complex that Congress and the many relevant public agencies cannot ^{EVEN} ~~ever~~ agree on definitions. The May, 1977, edition of The White House Conference on The Handicapped discusses the confusion vocational ^{rehabilitation} ~~rehabilitation~~ counselors experience in determining what national policy makers mean by "the most severely disabled". This is nothing compared to the conflict in policy created by installation of the term into ^{the} ~~the~~ Rehabilitation Act. For present purposes, a broad categorization of problems of the handicapped should include three dimensions - Architectural Barriers, Attitudinal Barriers, and Policy Barriers. Architectural barriers include the physical obstacles preventing access to the community such as stairs, curbs, narrow doors, and lack of inexpensive, accessible transportation and housing. Attitudinal barriers include the misconceptions, fears, and prejudices of the society-at-large which are created and sustained by ignorance. Attitudinal barriers include the handicapped such as those who are conditioned to the point of accepting the connotations of the stigma society has bestowed; in other words, those handicapped people who have made some disfunctional adjustment to their handicap which is preventing them from participating in all the aspects of life which they have the potential to experience. Policy barriers are the local, state, and national policies which significantly reduces the handicapped's chance to reach his potential or that of his able-bodied counterpart. In addition, lack of enforcement of existing positive policy is relevant. Finally, conflicting policies of various relevant public agencies are included. The dimensions just presented are often closely interrelated which require many varying kinds of problem-solving strategies.

When the founding fathers of the CBFL met in April, 1975, they were aware

of the magnitude and complexity of the problems that they were facing. They were allhandicapped which gave them personal knowledge of a variety of problems. A similar source of information came from their acquaintance with many other handicapped persons in Houston. Their ties with the Texas Institute of Rehabilitation and Research provided another source of information. Most important, though, was the fact that they were all educated professionals, some of which had notable knowledge and experience in national and state legislation concerning the handicapped. This last point suggests they were cognizant of the problems which could be approached at the local level with reasonable potential of success and those which could be dealt more effectively with at a higher level.

When the CBFL By-laws were ratified in May of 1975, the goal was designated as, "The purpose of the CBFL shall be to minimize the barriers that obstruct the handicapped individual from achieving the equality of opportunity and respect due every human being". The created standing committee reflected the problems that were considered most crucial in accomplishing the proposed goal. Since a copy of the By-laws is attached to this paper, discription will be avoided. However, this is a logical place for several observations that the By-laws bring to mind.

The term "coalition" is not defined in the chapter concerning membership. One may suspect that a coalition of people with various handicaps is inferred, but that is not actually the case. The conceptualization of coalition involved disabled and interested able-bodied persons. Although any interested party is welcome, the membership of the CBFL has been predominantly wheelchair-bound persons. The social class variable of the CBFL membership is applicable here. The majority of the two hundred members meet the criteria of Erbe's observation of relatedness between social class and frequency of participation in voluntary organizations with the most blatant exception being "the married-with-children". Most of the officers and membership are young and often competent professionals or university students. The credentials of these are notable - ranging from participation in the recent President's White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals to professional positions that are relevant to one of the organization's standing committees to those who are in the position for public relations work with other group organizations. Incidentally, the CBFL uses the argument that implementation of their goals have and will increase mobility of the handicapped and, thus,

present a whole new consumer group. This is a convincing, but obvious, statement of the "in the public interest" characteristic mentioned earlier. Although all the CBFL social class characteristics thus mentioned are definitely middle-class advantages and tendencies, they are qualified to some extent by the facts that income for the majority of the CBFL's disabled membership is below that of their able-bodied counterparts. One reason for this is that all of the unemployed members are living on benefits from public service agencies. Those who are employed will on the average spend between five and ten thousand dollars more a year than their able-bodied counterparts depending on whether or not they require attendant services, the cost of required medications and supplies, or salary discrimination based on the person's disability.⁽¹¹⁾ At any rate, the point being made is that this is a lower class disadvantage in that funds are not plentiful enough within the membership to be used as a creditable source of power in influencing politics or public awareness. Depending on one's perspective, the misconceptions and inhibitions concerning disability may be viewed as a disadvantage comparable to the "special pleading" stigma directed at lower class voluntary organizations. To avoid stretching a point of relativity, the CBFL is in essence middle-class.

Turning to the chapter on finances, one notices that funds are collected by (1) annual membership fees and (2) outside contributions with a simple majority acceptance on the membership. As the organization has grown, needed funds for increased activities and publications surpass those gathered by annual fees. The increasing use of outside funds and resources brings up the question of autonomy. Some of the CBFL's financial ties consist of (1) a donation of office space by the Easter Seals Building, (2) the services of three Vista volunteers paid by the Houston United Ministries, (3) a percentage of the proceeds from bingo games run by United Charities, Inc., and (4) a ten thousand dollar grant from HEW to sponsor a 1978 Leadership Training Conference and Organization Workshop for the purpose of developing statewide coalitions for disabled persons in Texas and the four surrounding states. Whether associations of this kind will limit the problem-solving strategies of the CBFL is yet to be seen, but it is my opinion that pressure from sponsors will continue to be minimal. The basic middle-class ideology and membership of the CBFL does not pose the same kind of threat as lower-class organizations to the middle and upper classes of society-at-large. In addition, the CBFL generally uses strate-

gies associated with community development and social action, but its use of confrontation and protest has been reserved until the less emotionally charged strategies proved fruitless. Now it is time to look at the arsenal of strategies used by the CBFL in the problem-solving process.

Considering that the CBFL is only two years old and the immensity of the presenting problem, the standing committee on Architectural Barriers has done ^{note -} ~~not~~ ^{ably} well. The approach has been one of going into the community and informing the businessmen of the significant size of the handicapped population with its potential as a consumer group. The committee will evaluate a place of business and make suggestions of how it may be made wheel-chair accessible cheaply. Placing the business in the CBFL's handbook of accessible businesses is an incentive. The committee also contacts ^{owner} owners and constructors before construction or during the early stages. This community education aspect of the community development approach produces, and the Summit is one outstanding example of proof.

The Architectural Barriers Committee has not ignored the public sector, either. On January 27, 1976, the CBFL submitted a proposal to the City of Houston for the installation of ramps or curb-cuts at the three hundred intersections in the downtown area. The proposal consisted of (1) a statement of need, (2) a reminder of national and state policy concerning accessibility, (3) examples of other cities observing this policy, (4) specifications of construction, and (5) time and cost estimates determined by the President of the Houston Chapter of the National Institute of Architects and the City of Fort Worth, Texas. The proposal was accepted and monies from the Office of Community Development were implemented. After completion of the construction, the CBFL surveyed the curb-cuts and sent an analysis and recommendations to the C. D. office. This particular problem demonstrates the need for a political orientation in voluntary organizations. The nature of the problem was political in that a solution had to come from the public sector and within that context there was no office to champion the interests of the handicapped.

The Standing Committee on Transportation has employed confrontation and negotiation strategies which have brought the CBFL more mass media coverage than the efforts of the other committees. The struggle to overcome what many within the CBFL consider the handicaps' greatest barrier and the frustration created from the lack of a suitable solution brought about an emotionally charged situation. When the CBFL first met with the ^{Office} office of Public Transportation, the ensuing result was a purchase of six wheel-chair accessible mini-busses running a ^{fixed} ~~fixed~~ and limited route. Problems immediately became apparent. The six busses were to

serve over one hundred thousand disabled people in Houston. Ridership was low because these people live throughout the city where the fixed route was of no use. In addition, maintenance of the busses proved futile until, finally, there was only one bus running between Independence Hall and the University of Houston. In July, 1977, The CBFL met with the Office of Public Transportation and were informed that the one hundred fifty-one busses, which are presently being built, would not be accessible, but any purchase after these would. This was agreeable to the CBFL until it was discovered later that none of these busses were expected before December, 1979. Finally, on September 28, 1977, a very verbal group of thirty-five wheelchair-bound and fifteen ambulatory CBFL members demonstrated at City Hall. The end result of the demonstration was the initiation of a new Dial-a-Ride service which the CBFL had proposed earlier. Although the CBFL are happy with this improvement, there is little doubt that the organization considers this situation temporary and continued contact with the Office of Public Transportation will be sustained.

I like this!

The extended discussion of the activities of the Standing Committees on Architectural Barriers and Transportation is intended to point out that the strategies employed in the problem-solving process are determined by the variables involved in the particular problem. It should be made clear now that the scope of the CBFL has not become static or limited. The following will focus on some of the present and future activities.

1. In response to a CBFL proposal, the Office of Community Development formed the Community Development Demographic Task Force and elected the CBFL's vice-president as the chairman. The purpose of the task force is to locate Houston's disabled citizens in order to provide public services where most needed.
2. Community Development and the CBFL are discussing a proposal to finance a consumer oriented Center for the Disabled. The services that would be provided include peer conseling, financial and legal advocacy, attendant training and referral, and limited transport and equipment repair services. A list of legal questions concerning operation and ownership have been submitted to the City Attorney.
3. As soon as the new mayor is established, the CBFL will pursue a proposal to establish a Mayor's Office for the Handicapped. It is interesting to note that due to the lack of any positive feed-

back on this proposal from the former mayor or from the two run-off mayor candidates, the segment of the proposal concerning a demographic survey was pursued and attained through Community Development.

4. The CBFL's Housing Committee is planning a series of "Awareness Workshops" to begin this spring. It will provide technical information about accessibility and barrier-free design ^{from} ~~form~~ the education of apartment builders, owners, and managers.
5. A meeting with the Acting Director of Parks and Recreation has been set up to discuss objectives and develop plans for a multi-purpose ^{field} ~~filed~~ and barrier-free playground for handicapped children. Also, employment of trained attendents in the park is desired.

The introduction to this paper promises an evaluation and summary of the CBFL for the purpose of offering suggestions for improvement. The difficulty in designating specific improvements is beyond my knowledge at this time. However, the few opinions that I have ^{seen} ~~combined~~ with the observations of the theorists on voluntary organizations in general seems pertinent. Perlman and Gurin note the success of most voluntary organizations:

"The weight of the evidence indicates, however, that neither community development nor social action undertaken at the local level by disadvantaged people have thus far produced powerful social movements, political realignments, or significant changes in the distribution of rights and resources. They have, on the other hand, stimulated more awareness of the needs of disadvantaged people, developed more effective spokesmen for them, and brought about some limited modifications in the structures and practices of those bureaucracies that are most vulnerable to local pressure."(12)

These authors provide a suggestion which covers my own opinion:

"If they are to grapple with the most serious problems of their constituencies, these associations must have an impact on the centers of decision-making that control employment opportunities, public-assistance levels, housing, education, and health care. These centers are located beyond the boundaries of the ghetto, the neighborhood, and even the city. The main switches that control the flow of these goods and services are found more and more in Washington and to a lesser extent in state capitals. Moreover, affecting changes at the source of these decisions involves just those long-range, complex policy issues that are most difficult for these associations to handle".(13)

This paper ~~paper~~ offers much evidence to support the above mentioned opinions. I feel that the absence of any public office to enforce existing policy or to

coordinate the several services relevant to the handicapped, as well as the reluctance to create a Mayor's Office for the Handicapped, is indicative that city government needs the guidance and pressure from the higher levels of government. I would suggest that movement in this direction be made, but this is already occurring. Members of the CBFL and other organizations across the country are actively involved in Washington. The previously mentioned HEW grant to create state-wide colitions is an effort to establish a larger, organized interest group. Also, the CBFL is a young ^{organization} ~~organization~~ which at the present time is rapidly gaining momentum. I feel that the results of the work in the next fiscal year will provide a stronger base for assessment and prediction of successful change at the local level. Whatever the results achieved by the CBFL, their efforts potentially have an accumulative effect. By informing society, able-bodied and handicapped, of the problems and suggestions for improvement, as well as developing the memberships' political skills, the CBFL is building constituencies for state and national efforts where the most permanent and comprehensive changes will occur. Finally, this summary of "evaluation and suggested improvements" is in essence a commendation for a group for its efforts, ^{scope} ~~scope~~, and dedication in what it feels is right.

1. Perlman, Robert and Gurin, Arnold, Community Organization and Social Planning, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1972 p. 76.
2. Ibid, page 91.
3. Ibid, page 92.
4. Ibid, page 92.
5. William Erbe, "Social Envolvement and Political Activity", American Sociological Review, 29, no. 2, April 1964, pp. 198-215.
6. Ibid, page 198-215.
7. Perlman, Robert and Gurin, Arnold, Community Organization and Social Planning, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1972 p. 101.
8. Ibid, page 101.
9. Ibid, page 101.
10. Arthur Blum, Magdalena Miranda, and Maurice Meyer, "Goals and Means for Social Change", Turner, op. cit., pp. 106-120.

11. The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, M. Berkowitz, "Economic Concerns of Handicapped Individuals", May 1977, p. 217.
12. Perlman, Robert and Gurin, Arnold, Community Organization and Social Planning, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1972 p. 117.
13. Ibid, page 115.

This is a most interesting and thorough paper. You show excellent understanding of the structure and function of this organization as well as knowledge of some of the problems encountered, which problems you seem to understand analytically. I am pleased to know more of this essential and dynamic group.

Also, this paper is very well organized and written.

Term paper grade - "A"
Course grade "A" (this
will probably go to the computer as
an A).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Perlman, Robert and Gurin, Arnold, Community Organization and Social Planning, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1972.
2. William Erbe, "Social Envolvement and Political Activity", American Sociological Review, 29, no. 2, April 1964, pp. 198-215.
3. Arthur Blum, Magdalena Miranda, and Maurice Meyer, "Goals and Means for Social Change", Turner, op. cit., pp. 106-120.
4. The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, M. Berkowitz, "Economic Concerns of Handicapped Individuals", May 1977, p. 217.
5. All information pertaining to the Coalition for Barrier Free Living was obtained at the CBFL office, Easter Seals Society, Houston, Texas.

BYLAWS
COALITION FOR BARRIER-FREE LIVING

Chapter I. NAME & PURPOSE

Article 1.

The name of the organization shall be the COALITION FOR BARRIER-FREE LIVING, also referred to as CBFL.

Article 2.

The purpose of the CBFL shall be to minimize the barriers that obstruct the handicapped individual from achieving the equality of opportunity and respect due every human being.

Article 3.

A handicapped individual is one who is or has been a consumer of rehabilitation services as defined by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Chapter II. MEMBERSHIP

Article 1.

An active member is one who participates in committee activities and who has paid annual dues of five dollars (\$5.00) for the current fiscal year of the CBFL.

Article 2.

An associate member is an organization who has paid annual dues of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the current CBFL fiscal year.

Article 3.

An inactive member is one who has defaulted on payment of dues or committee activities.

Article 4.

An honorary member is one who has rendered exceptional service to the purpose of the CBFL.

Article 5.

Only active members may hold elective office.

Article 6.

Each active member and associate member shall exercise the right of one vote.

Chapter III. BODIES

Article 1.

These are established as the principal bodies of the CBFL: a General Assembly, a Council of Directors, the Standing Committees, a President, a Vice-President, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Recording Secretary.

Article 2.

Such auxiliary bodies and positions as may be found necessary may be established by the President, subject to the approval of a simple majority of the Council of Directors.

Chapter IV. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 1.

The General Assembly shall consist of all the members present at a general meeting.

Article 2.

General meetings shall be held no less often than bi-monthly (every other month).

Article 3.

A quorum shall consist of one quarter (1/4) of the active members.

Article 4.

The General Assembly may discuss any questions or any matter within the scope of the present bylaws or relating to the powers and functions of any body provided for in these bylaws.

Article 5.

The General Assembly has the power to overturn any decision of the Council of Directors by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Article 6.

Any other questions are to be decided by simple majority vote.

Article 7.

The General Assembly shall approve all expenditures incurred on the behalf of the CBFL exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00).

Article 8.

During a General Assembly meeting held in the last month of the fiscal year, there shall be elections held for the offices of President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and the additional members of the Council of Directors to serve for the next fiscal year. When the General Assembly is notified of this meeting, they shall be notified that this vote is to be taken.

Article 9.

The General Assembly may meet in special sessions as occasion may require. Special sessions shall be called by the President, or upon written request of a simple majority of the Council of Directors or one quarter (1/4) of the General Assembly.

Chapter V. THE COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS SHALL:

Article 1.

Consist of all elected officials and six (6) additional elected by the General Assembly.

Article 2.

(a) Determine eligibility and class of membership; (b) Have the prerogative of waiving dues by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Article 3.

Convene at least monthly.

Article 4.

Have the prerogative of all legislative power not explicitly delegated to any other body.

Article 5.

Determine when any member shall be suspended for repeated violations of the bylaws.

Article 6.

Approve all expenditures incurred on behalf of the CBFL exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Chapter VI. COMMITTEES

Article 1.

Committees shall be formed that relate to the purpose of the CBFL.

Standing committees shall be:

- A. Transportation
- B. Architectural Barrier Sub-Committee Guide Book
- C. Social Action
- D. Public Relations
- E. Consumer and Medical Services
- F. Housing
- G. Employment
- H. Fund Raising & Membership
- I. Recreation

Article 2.

Additional committees shall be formed at the discretion of the Council of Directors by simple majority vote.

Article 3.

Any committee other than a standing one may be dissolved by a simple majority vote of the General Assembly.

Article 4.

Each member of the CBFL shall choose the committee(s) on which he/she are to serve or be assigned to a committee by the Council of Directors.

Article 5.

Each committee shall elect a chairperson from among the committee members.

Article 6.

Each committee may make recommendations in writing of findings that are relevant to the goals of the committee to the CBFL, the General Assembly, the Council of Directors, or the President.

Article 7.

Each committee may set the time and place of its meetings.

Article 8.

Each chairperson shall have the responsibility for the minutes of each committee meeting and shall be responsible for submitting the minutes to the Recording Secretary two weeks after each committee meeting.

Chapter VII. ELECTIVE OFFICES

Article 1.

- (a) The term of office shall be one year and be held only by active members.
- (b) The President and Vice-President shall be handicapped.
- (c) Six (6) of the remaining elective officers or Council of Director members shall be handicapped.

Article 2.

The President shall:

- (a) Be the Chief Executive officer of the CBFL and the Council of Directors.
- (b) Have the prerogative of all executive duties not designated to other bodies in these bylaws.
- (c) Preside at all meetings of the General Assembly and the Council of Directors.
- (d) Have a vote only in the event of a tie.
- (e) Appoint all non-elective officers with majority approval of the Council of Directors.
- (f) Be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- (g) Be limited to two (2) consecutive terms.

Article 3.

The Vice-President shall:

- (a) Perform all duties and exercise all powers of the President in the President's absence.
- (b) Succeed to the presidency in case of a vacancy in that office and serve out that term.

Article 4.

The Corresponding Secretary shall:

- (a) Take care of all correspondence pertaining to transactions of the business of the CBFL.
- (b) Give notice of all regular and special meetings to those relevant members.
- (c) Keep an accurate record of all memberships and dues.

Article 5.

The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Be the Chief Fiscal Officer of the CBFL.
- (b) Receive all funds paid to the CBFL and shall deposit such funds in such banks as the Council of Directors may designate.
- (c) Pay all bills for expenditures of the CBFL after those bills have been certified and approved by the Council of Directors.
- (d) Keep or cause to be kept in suitable form detailed accounts of the assets, liabilities, receipts and disbursements of the CBFL.
- (e) Render financial reports at all General Assembly and Council of Directors meetings.

Article 6.

The Recording Secretary shall:

- (a) Be responsible for the recording of all minutes of all meetings.
- (b) Be responsible for the recording of attendance at all General Assembly and Council of Directors meetings.

Chapter VIII. FINANCE

Article 1.

The CBFL shall be a non-profit organization.

Article 2.

Any expense incurred in behalf of the CBFL not exceeding fifty-dollars (\$50.00) shall have the prior approval of the President and Treasurer.

Article 3.

The CBFL may upon a simple majority vote of the Council of Directors accept dues, gifts, grants, contracts, and make and let contracts in connection with the operations of the CBFL.

Article 4.

No elective office shall be salaried.

Article 5.

The signatories of all CBFL expenditures shall be the President and Treasurer.

Chapter IX. DISSOLUTION OF THE CBFL.

Article 1.

The CBFL may be dissolved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Assembly at a special meeting specifically called for such purpose.

Article 2.

Upon dissolution all assets remaining after paying the CBFL obligations shall be distributed by the General Assembly to those organizations sharing the purpose in Chapter 1, Article 2.

Chapter X. RECORDS

Article 1.

The books shall be audited annually by a qualified individual approved by the Council of Directors.

Article 2.

All books and records of the CBFL may be inspected by any member upon reasonable request.

Chapter XI. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the CBFL shall commence on the 1st day of October and shall end on the last day of September of the following year.

Chapter XII. PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY

A Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the President with majority approval of the Council of Directors. Roberts Rules of Order, revised, latest edition, shall govern the meetings of the CBFL.

Chapter XIII. VOTING

- (a) All votes shall be by simple majority unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.
- (b) A quorum shall consist of one-fourth (1/4) of the relevant body.
- (c) Each member may submit 3 proxy votes, in writing, on any issue requiring a vote.

Chapter XIV. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Notice of any general assemble meeting where a vote is to be considered shall state the time, place, and purpose and shall be served personally or by mail to those relevant members and shall be at least two (2) weeks prior to such meeting.

Chapter XV. REPRESENTATION

- (a) No individual or group other than the president may represent the CBFL to any other individual or organization without previous majority approval of the Council of Directors or the General Assembly.
- (b) Each associate member shall submit in writing an executive order designating its representative to the CBFL.

Chapter XVI. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the present bylaws shall come into force for all members of the CBFL when they have been adopted by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the General Assembly.

Chapter XVII. RATIFICATION

These bylaws have been amended, accepted, and ratified in a General Assembly meeting.

President _____

Secretary _____

Date _____

COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Coalition for Barrier Free Living is a non-profit tax exempt corporation established under Texas Law in April 1975.

Housed at Houston's Easter Seal Society, 3630 W. Dallas, CBFL is directed by a seventeen member board which includes six elected officers and eleven additional elected directors. There are twelve standing committees:

- 1) Architectural Barriers, 2) Transportation, 3) Housing, 4) Employment,
- 5) Social Action, 6) Fund Raising, 7) Public Relations, 8) Consumer and Medical Affairs, 9) Membership, 10) Education, 11) Hearing Impaired, 12) Visually Impaired.

The membership consists of individuals with various disabilities including orthopedic, visual, hearing, and mental impairments. Joining together with those interested able-bodied individuals, the CBFL works for the civil rights of the handicapped consumer as well as for the elimination of the architectural and attitudinal barriers in the community. Accomplishments of the CBFL include:

1. Collection of architectural barrier data in the Harris County area resulting in the printing of a booklet "A Guide to Houston for the Handicapped".
2. Presentation of proposal for Community Development, and receipt of \$86,000.00 for the elimination of architectural barriers in the downtown Houston area. To date 60 curb cuts have been completed. An additional \$500,000 in Community Development funds has been allocated for the elimination of architectural barriers in 1978 - 79.
3. Proposal to the Office of Public Transportation for the establishment of a door to door wheelchair accessible transportation service leading to the purchase of six wheelchair accessible buses.
Establishment of specific target areas and routes in coordination

with the CBFL transportation committee and the initiation of the Pick-Me-Up Service in October 1977.

4. Receipt of commitment from Office of Public Transportation that all future buses purchased, including 326 on order, will be accessible to the mobility impaired.
5. Receipt of \$1500.00 grant from the Texas Rehabilitation Commission for the modification of a cab for use by the mobility impaired.
6. Organization of leadership conference to establish a regional coalition to include Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Out of this conference was established a communications network among the five states. The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities was established to work on state issues.
7. Presentation of a three million dollar proposal in the 1979-80 Community Development Block Grant Program for a Center for Barrier Free Living. Construction of this Center will enable the handicapped community to have a central geographic location for service and information.
8. Production of two films in conjunction with the Rice University Media Center. "Wheeling and Dealing in Houston" was written, filmed and edited by Handicapped individuals. This film was instrumental in the CBFL's attainment of concessions from the Office of Public Transportation for accessible transportation. "You Can Get It If You Really Want It" illustrates the benefits which can be obtained by joining together in a coalition. Both films are in super-8mm color sound.
9. Employment of a full-time professional editor under the Comprehensive Education Training Act for the CBFL's newspaper "Freewheeling".
10. Consumer input in the yearly Houston Job Fair for the Handicapped. Presentation of awareness program for employers.

11. Acquisition of two full-time staff persons from the VISTA volunteer program.
12. Presentation of a \$100,000.00 proposal for a demographic study of the handicapped population in the Harris County Area. A Task Force on the Handicapped was formed to implement this study.
13. Declaration of a yearly Mobility Awareness Week in the Houston Area.

Ongoing projects of the CBFL include:

1. Information and Referral
2. Public Awareness - Education
 - a. General Public
 - b. Handicapped Community
 - c. Advocacy

The Coalition is expanding its membership daily and is bringing together all organizations and their members to effect change for the whole handicapped community.

Coalition For Barrier Free Living

P. O. Box 20803

Houston, Texas 77025

(713) 526-1651

Imagine Life on an Obstacle Course

The club has more than 200 members, yet only about 30 can make it to the meetings. But then, that's the whole reason for having the club.

For members of the Coalition for Barrier Free Living, getting places is not easy. The Coalition is a group of mobility impaired individuals who joined together about a year and a half ago to work toward removing barriers in the environment. "Barrier free" simply implies a lack of obstacles. The intent is that buildings may be entered and used by all regardless of physical condition.

"We're not trying to change the world because we can't walk," says Nita Weil, head of the architectural barriers committee. "If people understand the problem before they build though, it makes things easier. We need public awareness and understanding that we are not street-corner cripples, but productive human beings."

The Coalition also works through committees on consumer affairs, housing, recreation and transportation. The members have been actively working on several projects in recent months. Three members have worked with the Rice Media Center on a film which will be aired on Channel 8 August 28th at 10:30 p.m. About 30 to 40 minutes long, the film covers the inter-relationship of barriers to the handicapped. "Rice Media Center offered to help us with the film," says Bob Kafka, president of the Coalition. "And they let us make the film the way we see the problems."

The Coalition is finishing another project this month—a wheelchair handbook to Houston. The guide lists theaters and restaurants that are accessible for the handicapped.

Future projects include a medical supply service with cut-rate prices, and possibly a housing

project for individuals to stay in immediately after leaving a hospital.

Today one out of every 10 persons in the U.S. has some disability preventing use of buildings which have been designed for the physically fit. And by 1985, it is predicted that the physically disabled may total more than 40 million.

Yet the handicapped have little access to the places and things that physically fit people enjoy. There are too many obstacles.

The Coalition has made some progress in removing barriers, al-

though there still is a long road ahead. Members encouraged the City to purchase six minibuses which are equipped for wheelchair-confined passengers. And approximately 350 curbs in the downtown area are to be cut within the next few months.

Although standards have been set and legislation passed regarding barriers, the problem is getting legislation enforced. Designs are frequently piecemeal and token efforts fail to provide maximal use. For instance, a ramp approach is built for a too-narrow doorway, or a curb is placed between the





The International Symbol of Access was recently adopted as the universal designation to be placed on all adequate accessible facilities. Information and specifications as to its proper usage may be obtained from: Rehabilitation International, 219 East 44th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

parking area and an otherwise accessible building.

Making a building accessible to all involves several decisive factors. There should be at least one way to enter the building, readily

accessible to elevators and not through revolving doors. Doorways should be at least 32 inches wide, easily opened, and with sills flush with the floor or not more than one inch high.

Ramps could be installed instead of stairs when necessary, and should not exceed one foot of rise for each 12 feet of length. Risers should not exceed seven inches and handrails should be 32 inches high, extending 18 inches beyond top and bottom steps.

In restrooms, at least one toilet stall should be built wide enough for wheelchair entry and equipped with grab rails, and fixtures should be placed no higher than 40 inches above floor level.

Public phones, drinking fountains and elevator buttons should be at wheelchair height.

The majority of the Coalition's members are between the ages of 25 and 35, and about 90% of them are confined to wheelchairs. Recreation activities include fishing, ping pong, archery, precision javelin and standard

dashes. Once a year the group puts on a festival to raise funds for its various projects.

The Coalition's housing committee identifies accessible housing in the community, checking the light switches, electrical outlets appliances and width of doorways. "We want to communicate to homebuilders that there is a market for housing for the handicapped," says Lex Frieden, head of the committee. Presently, the club is trying to get a building code passed which will require that 10% to 20% of new housing (mainly apartments) be equipped for the disabled.

Frieden points out that the handicapped want to foster integration—not to live only with other handicapped people. Barriers thwart rehabilitation efforts by preventing the disabled from participating as contributing and productive members of society.

Hopefully, some day the disabled will be able—able to go where they want, when they want. But first the many barriers must be removed.

Breaking Down Barriers

Imagine, for a moment, that you are in a wheelchair and you would like to visit an art gallery or maybe there is a new show in town and you want to go to the theater or perhaps you want to try the food in that new restaurant you heard about.

No problem, you would probably think.

So you make your plans, you get ready to go, you arrive at your destination.

And there, leading into the main entry, are steps - something most people never think about but to you they are insurmountable objects. Surely, you think, there must be at least one accessible entrance and so you look around.

But no, whoever built this building did not have you in mind.

Maybe the paintings were not worth seeing, perhaps the food was bad and the show dreary, but you never had a chance to find out.

Or it might be that you did find a ramp into the building only to discover that, once inside, there was a staircase and no elevator or the aisles were too narrow or the seating space was inadequate to accommodate a wheelchair.

If you were lucky, none of these barriers were present, but it is quite probable that when you returned to your car you found that another automobile had parked in the space next to you leaving too little room for you to get into your car. The list goes on.

It is bad enough that so many places do have architectural barriers. It is worse when you do not know which places are accessible.

To help people in wheelchairs deal with these problems, the Coalition for Barrier-Free Living has published "A Guide to Houston for the Handicapped."

Printed with a donation from the Auxiliary to the Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, the Guidebook has hundreds of listings with information contributed by many wheelchair users in the greater Houston area.

The Coalition is an organization of both wheelchair users and able bodied people interested in creating an environment that is accessible to everyone. The Guidebook is part of the Coalition's effort to identify accessible facilities while conducting a campaign to eliminate architectural barriers.

Most of the people in this 120 member organization are active young adults who

have learned from personal experience that although modern rehabilitation methods have greatly increased the mobility of many disabled people, barriers in the environment frequently deny those people access to public buildings, shops, public transportation, restaurants, theaters, places of potential employment, residential facilities and other structures.

"Many times," says Will Clark, President of the Coalition, "the problem is lack of public awareness of the needs of handicapped people."

One of the major functions of the Coalition is to serve as an information resource and educational effort for the public generally and specifically for public officials and owners of private facilities. The goal is not only to inform people as to how buildings can be built architecturally accessible but how improvements in accessibility can frequently be made with minimal cost and effort such as ramping one entry to a restaurant, installing a couple of removable seats to create wheelchair space in a theater or moving one check out counter a few inches to widen an aisle in a grocery store.

Members try to work with persons responsible for new buildings before or during the early stages of construction. This type of activity helped make Houston's new entertainment arena, the Summit, accessible with places for wheelchair seating and parking arrangements for the handicapped.

Curbs in downtown Houston will be ramped next year due to a proposal written by the Coalition for Houston's Community Development Division, a federal program for urban renewal which includes funds to support environmental improvements for the handicapped.

"Federal and state laws," said Nita Weil, head of the Architectural Barriers Committee, "require that structures built with public money be made accessible to the handicapped. And yet, many such buildings are not accessible because there is little provision for enforcement of these laws."

Although most of our environment has been designed for people who are physically fit, the number of those who have physical handicaps is not small. One out of every 10 persons in the United States today has a physical handicap and this population is rapidly growing as advances in medicine allow more and more people to survive disabling illness and injury. Add to this the number of persons handicapped by the infirmities of aging, heart condition and other mobility limiting conditions common in our society and one has a sizeable group.

To explain the problems imposed by barriers, the Coalition made a film several months ago with the assistance of the



Rice University Media Center. "The film shows barriers from the perspective of the wheelchair user," said Bob Kafka, Vice President of the Coalition. "It was written, directed, shot and edited by three members and it was shown on Houston television on Channel 8."

In addition to architectural barriers, the film describes the Coalition's efforts in public transportation, an area of much concern because of the almost total inaccessibility of public transit systems and the inability of many handicapped people to drive or afford the expense of private transportation.

The Urban Mass Transportation Act calls for mass transportation facilities and services to be planned and designed so as to be available to elderly and handicapped persons.

Coalition members encouraged the Houston Transit System to acquire six mini buses with wheelchair lifts and helped map out two of the three routes the mini buses now travel.

These bus routes are proving to be so successful that the city is thinking of buying additional vehicles. The Coalition's goal in this area is a city wide mass transit system accessible to all Houstonians whether handicapped or able-bodied.

Architectural barriers and transportation are not the only issues of concern. The handicapped face problems in many aspects of living. The Coalition has committees to work on housing problems, employment opportunities and consumer affairs.

To promote athletic activities for handicapped people, the group co-sponsored this year, with the Southwest Wheelchair Athletic Association, the first invitational where wheelchair bound athletes demonstrated skill in track and field events, swimming, weight-lifting, table tennis and archery.

The Coalition is working for the passage of a building code which requires that ten percent of first floor apartments in large complexes be accessible.

Future projects include a peer counseling service, a public awareness campaign and speakers bureau, an architectural barriers survey and the establishment of an Office of Human Development in city government.

Recently, Coalition members participated in regional and state conferences held in preparation for the National White House Conference on the Handicapped to be held in Washington, D.C., in May, 1977. At this national meeting, handicapped people from all over the country will work together to form recommendations for Congress. Hopefully, these recommendations will result in meaningful legislation.

Many local organizations involved with the handicapped support the efforts of the Coalition. Groups such as Paralyzed Veterans of America and Easter Seal Society have representatives among the membership.

Dr. William A. Spencer, President of T.I.R.R., said, "Many of the members of the Coalition are former patients of T.I.R.R. who have been rehabilitated and have returned to the mainstream of living to find that their choices of activities are frequently and unnecessarily limited by architectural and attitudinal barriers. These barriers restrict rehabilitation efforts by preventing the disabled from participating fully as contributing and productive members of society.

"The efforts that those of us in rehabilitation make to restore the individual to his maximum independence must be accompanied by an effort in the community to make the resources in our society accessible to everyone. The fact that the handicapped members of the Coalition are making this community effort on their own behalf is proof that rehabilitation works, that the disabled can be restored to independence if given a second chance. But it is only when barriers of every kind have been removed, and we have an environment equally accessible to all of our citizens, that we will see how truly able the rehabilitated disabled can be."

For further information on the Coalition for Barrier-Free Living contact the Coalition office, located in the Easter Seal Society building at 3630 West Dallas. Telephone: 526-1651.



post office box 20803 houston, texas 77025

September 27, 1978

Dear *Lix*

On behalf of the Coalition for Barrier Free Living I would like to welcome you as a member of the Board of Directors for the coming year.

Enclosed is a brief description of the CBFL's accomplishments during the past three years along with a list of the new Board members and a copy of the Center for the Disabled proposal.

The first Board meeting for the new year will be held Thursday, October 5, at 6:00 p.m. in the T.I.R.R. library. Please review the enclosed material and bring with you a list of objectives for your committee for the coming year with enough copies (*20*) to distribute to the entire Board for their discussion and approval. Officers should compile a list of overall objectives for the CBFL for the coming year.

Once again welcome to the "working" Board of the CBFL.

Sincerely,

Bob Geyer

BG/oh

CBFL Board Members
1978

President

Bob Geyer- VISTA supervisor, Houston Metropolitan Ministries
4003 Bluebonnet
Houston, Tx. 77025
Home 661-5707
Work 522-3955

1st Vice President

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2nd Vice President

John McKinney- Systems analysis at Penzoil
1039 Francitas
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Home 445-0497
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Recording Secretary

Lynn Wilson- Grad. student at Texas Research Institute of Mental Science
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Work 797-1976 ext. 209

Corresponding Secretary

Devalca White- Receptionist at the Easter Seal Center
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Treasurer

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Home 466-9659
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Committees

Architectural Barriers

Bob Kafka- Exec. Director of Texas Paralyzed Veterans of America
2312 Commonwealth #8
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Social Action

Duke Conley- unemployed at the moment
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Houston, Tx. 77035
Home 721-6953

Employment

Joe Kramberg- Texas Rehabilitation Commission Counselor
2910 Sunset
Houston, Tx. 77005
Home 661-9886
Work 526-8511

Consumer and Medical Affairs

Dr. Lauro Halstead- Associate Professor for Baylor College, Preventive
and physical medicine
4111 Martinshire
Houston, Tx.
Home 661-7042
Work 797-1440

Transportation

Bob Geyer

Housing

Vicki Sorrells- Coordinator of Staff Associates for New Options
5151 S.Willow #143
Houston, Tx. 77035
Home 729-2410
Work 797-1440 ext. 535

Public Relations

Nita Weil- Director of Volunteers at TIRR
1800 Holcomb #115
Houston, Tx. 77030
Home 790-1981
Work 797-1440 ext. 375

Education

Shiela Richmond- Occupational Therapist for the Texas Educational Agency
1531 Yale
Houston, Tx. 77008
Home 861-7230
Work

Membership

Don Rossi- Research Associate at TIRR
5226 Holly
Bellaire, Tx. 77401
Home 665-4349
Work 797-1440 ext. 297

Fundraising

Harvey Janelli- Electro-Mechanical Designer for Baylor College of Medicine
7222 Baneway
Houston, Tx. 77072
Home 933-1475
Work 797-1440 ext.297

At Large Visually Impaired

Jim Beeson- President of the American Council for the Blind
3107 Pecan St.
Houston, Tx. 77087
Home 641-0095

At Large Hearing Impaired

Dale Black- Benefits Administrator
7232 Staffordshire #4
Houston, Tx. 77030
Work 668-9211 ext 295

Ex-Officio Board Members

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD)-Vicki Sorrells
American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities
Lex Frieden- New Options Research Director
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PROPOSAL FOR A HOUSTON
CENTER FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING

Prepared by the Coalition
for Barrier Free Living

CENTER FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING

STATEMENT OF NEED:

The U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare estimates that one out of every eleven Americans has a substantial degree of mobility impairment due to physical or mental handicaps. U.S. Census figures for 1970 indicated that over 96,000 persons residing within Harris County and between the ages of 16 and 60 were classified as totally disabled.

This large population suffers from one of the highest unemployment rates of any job-ready group in the United States. Because current forms of mass transit (except the new and extremely limited PICK-ME-UP bus service) are inaccessible to severely handicapped people, a chronic lack of transport has helped create the high rate of joblessness. Social attitudes and physical barriers combine with lack of transport and unemployment to raise formidable obstacles for substantially handicapped people who hope to live in mainstream Houston society.

While there are a number of institutions and groups dealing with various aspects of this situation, there is no facility or agency that integrates social, psychological, legal, financial, and transport services for disabled people. There are no recreational centers in Houston designed for the disabled, no public pools in which they can swim, and no accessible public social center in which they can congregate.

In addition, we believe that the people who understand best the needs of the disabled are disabled people themselves. This proposed center, through a board of directors in which disabled people are in the majority, will be run by and for disabled people--the physically disabled, the deaf, and the blind. On the following pages we will detail proposed building features, services, preferred locations, and management arrangements for a center to serve the needs of the disabled citizens of Houston.

PROPOSED COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. Attendant Referral and Training

At present handicapped persons in Houston have no such resource for obtaining the services of qualified attendants. This will be a referral service that will match experienced and competent attendants with disabled persons who require this service in order to lead independent lives. This service will also include interpreter training and a referral center for the deaf.

2. Social Functions

This facility will be available for meetings, social affairs, or recreation. One important aspect of the center would be its role as a social focus for the Houston handicapped community. Included will be special play facilities for children.

3. Financial Advocacy

Counselors would provide information to disabled people concerning local, state, federal and private financial programs. This will also include counseling concerning public assistance programs for medical care. For example, medicaid.

4. Legal Advocacy

Free legal aid and counseling concerning legislation in the areas of equal employment, the right to an appropriate education and the removal of architectural barriers. The director of such a program could be either a lawyer or a trained organizer who would organize volunteer legal services. Another alternative would be to have an existing legal advocacy program establish an office at the center dealing exclusively in legal counseling for the disabled. Special efforts will be made to secure medical and automobile insurance for disabled persons.

5. Peer Counseling

Counselors with the experience of living with a disability counsel other disabled persons. Discussions and consciousness raising groups allow disabled people, their mates and relatives to share experiences and discuss problems.

6. Health Maintenance

Classes and peer groups emphasize personal health care. Preventive medicine has a high priority for disabled people because of their vulnerability to skin, respiratory infection, bowel and bladder complications. Babysitting classes to teach people how to care for handicapped children. Physician referral dealing with problems unique to different disabilities.

7. Vocational Sign Classes

To assist professionals (lawyers, doctors) in communicating with the deaf community by conducting sign classes dealing specifically with practices and techniques unique to their profession.

8. Continuing Education for M.D.'s

Classes would be conducted by T.I.R.R. or Baylor College of Medicine staff aimed at providing continuing education for area physicians on the most

recent developments in medical care for the disabled.

9. Housing

Free apartment and real estate locator service to assist in pinpointing accessible housing. This would include locator services for the deaf and the blind. For example, a light for the doorbell and a seeing-eye dog.

10. Transportation Services

Although this service could have almost unlimited possibilities (Berkeley Center for Independent Living has a van fleet) initially it will be a service to bring center activity participants to and from their places of work and residence. A van with a wheelchair lift and a simple two-way dispatching system could be the first acquisition.

11. Home Modification

Architectural assistance will be provided for disabled people in order to make their homes more accessible. For example, bathroom specifications.

12. Daycare Facility

A program to provide daycare for handicapped children and the children of handicapped parents. This facility will also be provided for the deaf and the blind.

13. Equipment Repair Classes

An instructor will teach disabled persons how to maintain their equipment and make minor repairs. A repair service could also be run from the center. This could include hearing aid and TTY repairs.

14. Job Bank

This will be an employment center where there are current job openings that will be matched with disabled persons.

15. Public Education Consciousness

This will include a resource library, a media collection and a speakers bureau designed to educate the general public on the rights of the handicapped and the advantages of mainstreaming the disabled into society.

16. Computer Terminal

The participants would operate this computer terminal like a television set. There would be an educational component and a recreational one. By interacting with the computer handicapped individuals could take courses in algebra, accounting, etc. or play computer games such as ping-pong.

PROPOSED BUILDING FEATURES

1. Recreational Facilities

Gymnasium

- A. Swimming pool with lift and ramping
- B. Basketball court (full length for wheelchair basketball, one of the most popular wheelchair team games.)
- C. Self supervised physical therapy area with equipment.
- D. Bowling alley, utilizing donated equipment and lanes.
- E. Locker Rooms for wheelchairs

Outdoor Recreational Area

- A. A play area for disabled children featuring playground equipment designed for handicapped use.
- B. Picnic area featuring tables high enough for wheelchairs to roll under and grills for cooking.
- C. Outdoor track area for wheelchair track events.

Indoor Games Room

A games room to be fitted with computer games modified for use by severely handicapped persons.

2. Office Space

- A. Six medium size offices for center director, CBFL, Freewheeling (with adjoining darkroom), and programs to be run out of the center.

3. Classrooms and meeting rooms.

- A. At least four large classrooms which can be subdivided into smaller work and study areas by the use of sliding partitions.
- B. A large room to be fitted out as a library-study area for center workers and participants.
- C. A snack bar area outfitted with cafeteria tables. This should be adjacent to the kitchen area.

4. Auditorium

A 500 seat auditorium with sloping floor leading down to an accessible stage. A combination of fixed seating, temporary chairs, and open spaces for wheelchair occupancy should be built into the design. This facility will be used for concerts, movies, large meetings, and conventions. It, like many of the other features of this center, have never been available in Houston before.

- 5. Kitchen area- A totally accessible kitchen area with cooking, storage, and refrigeration equipment designed for use by the disabled.

6. Model living areas for use in programs to teach newly disabled persons to live in independent settings. (Optional)
Since the center already contains a totally accessible kitchen, these model living areas would consist of two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and perhaps a joint living room in a suite type arrangement. The living area would feature the most innovative furnishings and designs in barrier free living.

7. Equipment Repair Facilities

A. A self-service equipment room for repair of wheelchairs and other equipment. It would also be a service program area where disabled people could learn to work on their wheelchairs and other equipment. An instructor could make more complicated repairs on a cost-only basis.

B. Van Repair- This service, which would include classes in van and lift maintenance as well as repair, would be housed in a garage facility.

8. Garage

This facility could be built in stages. Initially it should include space for storage of two vans and work areas to accomodate at least two other vans. The design should also allow for substantial future expansion.

9. Covered Parking- This could be built into the facility design in a number of ways. It is a high priority for disabled persons who are exposed to the elements for substantial amounts of time while entering or leaving a vehicle.

PROPOSED BOARD OF DIRECTORS- HOUSTON CENTER FOR
BARRIER FREE LIVING

The Houston Center for Barrier Free Living will be operated by a Board of Directors to consist of 11 individuals.

The Coalition for Barrier Free Living will appoint 6 members to this board who will meet the following criteria.

1. Active membership in the CBFL
2. Two appointees must be orthopedically impaired
3. One appointee must be visually impaired
4. One appointee must be hearing impaired

The other 5 board members will be selected from other community organizations who have provided services to the handicapped. They will be selected from the following groups:

1. Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research
2. Goodwill Industries
3. Easter Seals
4. United Cerebral Palsy
5. Lighthouse for the Blind
6. MH-MR
7. HARC
8. Muscular Dystrophy Society
9. Multiple Sclerosis
10. HCCR
11. HARA

The Board of Directors will be the body which determines all policies concerning the creation and operation of the Houston Center for Barrier Free Living. Each board member will serve for a term of one year. At least six members of the board must be physically disabled.

CENTER LOCATION

Preferred Location

The preferred center location is in an area bounded by Montrose- Bagby-West Gray-West Alabama. This location is located in a developing area just southwest of the downtown area. It is a central location highly accessible to the downtown area, the agency complex along West Dallas serving the handicapped, the Medical Center, the T.I.R.R. annex on Drew Street, and other facilities serving the disabled.

Land values in this area are estimated by local realtors in the \$8-\$10 a square foot range.

Alternate Locations

A. West Dallas near Shepherd - This location is near the complex of agencies serving the handicapped, including Easter Seals, Lighthouse for the Blind, Harris County Center for the Retarded, etc. This area would provide a central location similar to the preferred location. One drawback is that it would contribute to a "ghettoization" effect of clustering services for disabled people.

B. MacGregor in a strip from the Hermann Park area to the University of Houston. This location is near the Medical center, near UH, and offers a physically attractive setting along the bayou.

C. The Binz area just south of downtown and north of Hermann Park. This area is near downtown, the medical center, and with easy access to major freeways. Land values are also relatively inexpensive, with estimates running \$4-\$6 per square foot.

COST AND SPACE ESTIMATES

Cost Estimate - A tentative estimate for this facility would be in the \$3.5-\$4 million dollar range.

Land Estimate- 150,000-200,000 square feet.

Building Space - 40,000- 60,000 square feet.

OPERATIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

The following sources, will be utilized in securing operating funds, program sponsors, and program management:

Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research
Easter Seals
Goodwill Industries
Texas Rehabilitation Commission
Foundation grants
Paralyzed Veterans Association
U.S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare
U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
LEAA monies
National Association of the Deaf
Texas State Commission for the Blind
Urban Mass Transit Authority
City of Houston

COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Coalition for Barrier Free Living is a non-profit tax exempt corporation established under Texas Law in April 1975.

Housed at Houston's Easter Seal Society, 3630 W. Dallas, CBFL is directed by a seventeen member board which includes six elected officers and eleven additional elected directors. There are twelve standing committees:

- 1) Architectural Barriers, 2) Transportation, 3) Housing, 4) Employment,
- 5) Social Action, 6) Fund Raising, 7) Public Relations, 8) Consumer and Medical Affairs, 9) Membership, 10) Education, 11) Hearing Impaired, 12) Visually Impaired.

The membership consists of individuals with various disabilities including orthopedic, visual, hearing, and mental impairments. Joining together with those interested able-bodied individuals, the CBFL works for the civil rights of the handicapped consumer as well as for the elimination of the architectural and attitudinal barriers in the community. Accomplishments of the CBFL include:

1. Collection of architectural barrier data in the Harris County area resulting in the printing of a booklet "A Guide to Houston for the Handicapped".
2. Presentation of proposal for Community Development, and receipt of \$86,000.00 for the elimination of architectural barriers in the downtown Houston area. To date 60 curb cuts have been completed. An additional \$500,000 in Community Development funds has been allocated for the elimination of architectural barriers in 1978 - 79.
3. Proposal to the Office of Public Transportation for the establishment of a door to door wheelchair accessible transportation service leading to the purchase of six wheelchair accessible buses.
Establishment of specific target areas and routes in coordination

with the CBFL transportation committee and the initiation of the Pick-Me-Up Service in October 1977.

4. Receipt of commitment from Office of Public Transportation that all future buses purchased, including 326 on order, will be accessible to the mobility impaired.
5. Receipt of \$1500.00 grant from the Texas Rehabilitation Commission for the modification of a cab for use by the mobility impaired.
6. Organization of leadership conference to establish a regional coalition to include Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Out of this conference was established a communications network among the five states. The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities was established to work on state issues.
7. Presentation of a three million dollar proposal in the 1979-80 Community Development Block Grant Program for a Center for Barrier Free Living. Construction of this Center will enable the handicapped community to have a central geographic location for service and information.
8. Production of two films in conjunction with the Rice University Media Center. "Wheeling and Dealing in Houston" was written, filmed and edited by Handicapped individuals. This film was instrumental in the CBFL's attainment of concessions from the Office of Public Transportation for accessible transportation. "You Can Get It If You Really Want It" illustrates the benefits which can be obtained by joining together in a coalition. Both films are in super-8mm color sound.
9. Employment of a full-time professional editor under the Comprehensive Education Training Act for the CBFL's newspaper "Freewheeling".
10. Consumer input in the yearly Houston Job Fair for the Handicapped. Presentation of awareness program for employers.

11. Acquisition of two full-time staff persons from the VISTA volunteer program.
12. Presentation of a \$100,000.00 proposal for a demographic study of the handicapped population in the Harris County Area. A Task Force on the Handicapped was formed to implement this study.
13. Declaration of a yearly Mobility Awareness Week in the Houston Area.

Ongoing projects of the CBFL include:

1. Information and Referral
2. Public Awareness - Education
 - a. General Public
 - b. Handicapped Community
 - c. Advocacy

The Coalition is expanding its membership daily and is bringing together all organizations and their members to effect change for the whole handicapped community.

Coalition For Barrier Free Living

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Breaking Down Barriers

Imagine, for a moment, that you are in a wheelchair and you would like to visit an art gallery or maybe there is a new show in town and you want to go to the theater or perhaps you want to try the food in that new restaurant you heard about.

No problem, you would probably think.

So you make your plans, you get ready to go, you arrive at your destination.

And there, leading into the main entry, are steps - something most people never think about but to you they are insurmountable objects. Surely, you think, there must be at least one accessible entrance and so you look around.

But no, whoever built this building did not have you in mind.

Maybe the paintings were not worth seeing, perhaps the food was bad and the show dreary, but you never had a chance to find out.

Or it might be that you did find a ramp into the building only to discover that, once inside, there was a staircase and no elevator or the aisles were too narrow or the seating space was inadequate to accommodate a wheelchair.

If you were lucky, none of these barriers were present, but it is quite probable that when you returned to your car you found that another automobile had parked in the space next to you leaving too little room for you to get into your car. The list goes on.

It is bad enough that so many places do have architectural barriers. It is worse when you do not know which places are accessible.

To help people in wheelchairs deal with these problems, the Coalition for Barrier-Free Living has published "A Guide to Houston for the Handicapped."

Printed with a donation from the Auxiliary to the Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, the Guidebook has hundreds of listings with information contributed by many wheelchair users in the greater Houston area.

The Coalition is an organization of both wheelchair users and able bodied people interested in creating an environment that is accessible to everyone. The Guidebook is part of the Coalition's effort to identify accessible facilities while conducting a campaign to eliminate architectural barriers.

Most of the people in this 120 member organization are active young adults who

have learned from personal experience that although modern rehabilitation methods have greatly increased the mobility of many disabled people, barriers in the environment frequently deny those people access to public buildings, shops, public transportation, restaurants, theaters, places of potential employment, residential facilities and other structures.

"Many times," says Will Clark, President of the Coalition, "the problem is lack of public awareness of the needs of handicapped people."

One of the major functions of the Coalition is to serve as an information resource and educational effort for the public generally and specifically for public officials and owners of private facilities. The goal is not only to inform people as to how buildings can be built architecturally accessible but how improvements in accessibility can frequently be made with minimal cost and effort such as ramping one entry to a restaurant, installing a couple of removable seats to create wheelchair space in a theater or moving one check out counter a few inches to widen an aisle in a grocery store.

Members try to work with persons responsible for new buildings before or during the early stages of construction. This type of activity helped make Houston's new entertainment arena, the Summit, accessible with places for wheelchair seating and parking arrangements for the handicapped.

Curbs in downtown Houston will be ramped next year due to a proposal written by the Coalition for Houston's Community Development Division, a federal program for urban renewal which includes funds to support environmental improvements for the handicapped.

"Federal and state laws," said Nita Weil, head of the Architectural Barriers Committee, "require that structures built with public money be made accessible to the handicapped. And yet, many such buildings are not accessible because there is little provision for enforcement of these laws."

Although most of our environment has been designed for people who are physically fit, the number of those who have physical handicaps is not small. One out of every 10 persons in the United States today has a physical handicap and this population is rapidly growing as advances in medicine allow more and more people to survive disabling illness and injury. Add to this the number of persons handicapped by the infirmities of aging, heart condition and other mobility limiting conditions common in our society and one has a sizeable group.

To explain the problems imposed by barriers, the Coalition made a film several months ago with the assistance of the



Rice University Media Center. "The film shows barriers from the perspective of the wheelchair user," said Bob Kafka, Vice President of the Coalition. "It was written directed, shot and edited by three members and it was shown on Houston television on Channel 8."

In addition to architectural barriers, the film describes the Coalition's efforts in public transportation, an area of much concern because of the almost total inaccessibility of public transit systems and the inability of many handicapped people to drive or afford the expense of private transportation.

The Urban Mass Transportation Act calls for mass transportation facilities and services to be planned and designed so as to be available to elderly and handicapped persons.

Coalition members encouraged the Houston Transit System to acquire six mini buses with wheelchair lifts and helped map out two of the three routes the mini buses now travel.

These bus routes are proving to be so successful that the city is thinking of buying additional vehicles. The Coalition's goal in this area is a city wide mass transit system accessible to all Houstonians whether handicapped or able-bodied.

Architectural barriers and transportation are not the only issues of concern. The handicapped face problems in many aspects of living. The Coalition has committees to work on housing problems, employment opportunities and consumer affairs.

To promote athletic activities for handicapped people, the group co-sponsored this year, with the Southwest Wheelchair Athletic Association, the first invitational where wheelchair bound athletes demonstrated skill in track and field events, swimming, weight-lifting, table tennis and archery.

The Coalition is working for the passage of a building code which requires that ten percent of first floor apartments in large complexes be accessible.

Future projects include a peer counseling service, a public awareness campaign and speakers bureau, an architectural barriers survey and the establishment of an Office of Human Development in city government.

Recently, Coalition members participated in regional and state conferences held in preparation for the National White House Conference on the Handicapped to be held in Washington, D.C., in May, 1977. At this national meeting, handicapped people from all over the country will work together to form recommendations for Congress. Hopefully, these recommendations will result in meaningful legislation.

Many local organizations involved with the handicapped support the efforts of the Coalition. Groups such as Paralyzed Veterans of America and Easter Seal Society have representatives among the membership.

Dr. William A. Spencer, President of T.I.R.R., said, "Many of the members of the Coalition are former patients of T.I.R.R. who have been rehabilitated and have returned to the mainstream of living to find that their choices of activities are frequently and unnecessarily limited by architectural and attitudinal barriers. These barriers restrict rehabilitation efforts by preventing the disabled from participating fully as contributing and productive members of society.

"The efforts that those of us in rehabilitation make to restore the individual to his maximum independence must be accompanied by an effort in the community to make the resources in our society accessible to everyone. The fact that the handicapped members of the Coalition are making this community effort on their own behalf is proof that rehabilitation works, that the disabled can be restored to independence if given a second chance. But it is only when barriers of every kind have been removed, and we have an environment equally accessible to all of our citizens, that we will see how truly able the rehabilitated disabled can be."

For further information on the Coalition for Barrier-Free Living contact the Coalition office, located in the Easter Seal Society building at 3630 West Dallas. Telephone: 526-1651.



Wheelchair-bound protesters picket theater

— Post photo by Manuel Chavez

Protesters in wheelchairs criticize access to theaters

By RICK BARRS
Post Reporter

The highly acclaimed movie *Coming Home*, whose principal character is a paraplegic veteran recently back from the Vietnam War, is playing at the Galleria III Cinema — but before Saturday, not to persons confined to wheelchairs.

And the only wheelchair-bound movie patrons who were able to see the movie Saturday had to be hand-carried into the theater. The problem is, the theater has no ramps, only steps.

To draw attention to the problems handicapped persons face in gaining access to public buildings, the Houston Coalition for Barrier Free Living staged a protest outside the theater prior to its 2:30 p.m. showing of the movie, starring actor Jon Voight as the paralyzed veteran.

At the protest, which drew a telegram from Voight and co-star Jane Fonda expressing their frustration that the movie was playing in a theater inaccessible to paraplegics, demonstrators carried placards with such slogans as, "*Coming Home* is a great movie! So I've heard" and "We came home — but . . . can't get in."

The protest was on the eve of National Handicapped Awareness Week beginning Sunday, protesters said.

Employees of the cinema, one of four owned by General Cinemas, Inc. in the Galleria shopping mall on Westheimer, lifted three protesters in their wheelchairs down the three steps to the theater lobby for the 2:30 p.m. show.

One of them was Charles Sabatier, a 32-year-old paraplegic originally from Galveston, who was shot in Vietnam in 1968 and lost the use of his legs. Like the character Voight plays in the *Coming Home*, Sabatier was a "buck sergeant" in the Army.

"Before I was shot in Vietnam at 22, I never even

thought about the problems handicapped people have in getting up and down stairs," said Sabatier, as he was plunking down \$2.50 for his ticket. "Now I sure think about it."

Though some Houston theaters are accessible to the handicapped, the majority are not, according to Sabatier and Lex Frieden, a spokesman for the barrier free living group.

State law requires that all public buildings constructed after Jan. 1 of this year, including movie theaters, be accessible to the handicapped, but the Galleria III and IV theaters were built before that time, Frieden said.

Elliott Brown, division manager for General Cinemas, said he sympathized with the problem and would find out why the theater does not have wheelchair ramps and other barrier-free features.

Brown noted that the theater's aisles are too narrow to accommodate patrons in wheelchairs comfortably. And, some of the protestors noted, the theater's bathrooms are up a flight of stairs on another floor from the theater.

Brown said his company's theaters at Greenspoint Mall on the North Freeway are "completely accessible" to the handicapped.

Bob Kafka, 32, coordinator of handicapped affairs at the University of Houston, said part of the issue is that handicapped persons "have pride just like everybody else" and want to be able to go to a movie without someone having to carry them in.

"This is embarrassing when you bring a date to the movies and someone has to carry you in," said Kafka, a Vietnam veteran who lost the use of his legs in an automobile accident after he returned from the war.

CSFL

10/77

TRANSPORTATION

The greatest barrier facing handicapped people as they attempt to enter into a full participatory role in American society is the lack of inexpensive, suitable transport. Unless a mobility-impaired individual is lucky enough to have the resources, agency support, and physical ability to buy and be able to drive a customized vehicle, she or he must depend on friends, private agencies, or public transport.

A customized van with a wheelchair lift costs approximately \$10,000. Not many disabled people have the financial wherewithal to purchase such a vehicle.

In Houston, Yellow Cab runs a HandiCab operation but the costs, a \$5.00 pickup charge plus \$.75 a mile, are far too expensive for anyone on a fixed income. A trip to a shopping center four miles from the individual's home would cost \$16.00. Goodwill charges \$1.00 for pickup plus \$.35 a mile but the vans are available only between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on an irregular basis.

For the handicapped person in Houston who is neither rich nor blessed with many devoted car-owning friends, mass transit is the only solution to the problems of isolation, immobility, and unemployment. For many disabled people mass transit means the difference between work and unemployment, between the roles of welfare burden and employed asset to our society.

So what does mass transit have to offer for the more than 100,000 disabled people of Houston? The city of Houston purchased 6 mini-busses that can accommodate wheelchairs. Due to maintenance problems several mini-bus routes were discontinued, and only one of these, with a maximum capacity of three wheelchairs, is currently in service, running a fixed route between Independence Hall (the Goodwill project for handicapped living) and the University of Houston. The ridership level is low because the handicapped population in Houston is scattered throughout the city rather than concentrated along the one route where HouTran runs its only wheelchair-accessible vehicle. It is low because the mini-bus has proven especially prone to breakdowns and no wheelchair-bound person relishes the idea of being trapped in the middle of town with no way of getting home. HouTran bus stops are for the most part surrounded by curbs or steps and are therefore useless to people in wheelchairs, regardless. City and bus company officials have proven extremely inflexible when asked to redesign the earlier bus routes once they were instituted.

The U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Brock Adams, issued a mandate on May 19, 1977 which stated that after September 30, 1979, all public transportation vehicles purchased with federal assistance would be required to be totally accessible. Presently, 151 standard busses are being manufactured by General Motors for Houston with absolutely no features for wheelchair accessibility. The estimated street life of these vehicles is 12 years, which means that even if they arrive by the end of 1977, they will continue operation until 1980.

In July, after meeting with the CBFL, the Office of Public Transportation announced that the next purchase of busses and any purchase after the 151 being manufactured would be made accessible. At the time, the CBFL considered this policy change to be of a very positive nature. But since that time, Public

Transportation cont'd.

Transportation has stated that they do not anticipate the arrival of any of these vehicles before the September 30, 1979 deadline, anyway.

In addition to fixed route service, a subsidiary service to get wheel-chair-bound people from the homes to the main bus lines will be necessary if mass transit is to make a major impact on their transportation problems. All major bus stops must be made accessible or else mass transit will remain beyond handicapped people, despite the fact that the vehicles themselves have lifts.

The facts are plain, the solution is clear: accessible busses that all citizens can effectively use should be placed in operation on all fixed routes as soon as possible and Houston must plan for and implement minibus, van, and taxi service that feeds and supplements rather than substitutes for accessible fixed route bus service in the near future.

HOUSING

The housing situation for handicapped people in Houston is critical. Independence Hall, an apartment project for handicapped and elderly people, has a waiting list with more than 100 names. Willow Wood Apartments, a southwest Houston apartment complex with minor modifications for handicapped people, also has a long waiting list. Other than a few other small apartment complexes where groups of mobility-impaired people have taken up residence and secured some modifications, such as ramping and wider doors, there is nothing in Houston in the way of handicapped housing.

The Coalition encourages the development of a wide variety of housing styles and settings for handicapped people. For those people whose physical problems require round-the-clock care and assistance, residential facilities with full-time attendant care should be developed. But many if not most handicapped people require only part-time (if any) attendant help. They do need accessible apartments and low-income housing.

We are pleased that the Houston Housing Authority has chosen to address this problem before federal regulations force them to do so. Robert Juarez has submitted a request to the Housing Authority Board recommending that the board adopt the ANSI standards of construction for 5% of all new Housing Authority construction. We hope that the board endorses this recommendation and we would ask that initially the percentage of accessible units be much higher in new construction to compensate for the fact that none of the existing Housing Authority projects are accessible.

As described below, we support a city building code revision requiring that 10% of the new apartment construction in Houston be in accordance with the ANSI standards. Since over 10% of the U.S. population is handicapped, we feel this figure is justifiable.

ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS

The Coalition supports the principle of total accessibility. All public buildings, city, county, and state, must be barrier-free conforming to the American National Standards Institute specifications for accessible construction. Handicapped people have an undeniable right to use the buildings and programs that their tax moneys helped build. Public buildings should be ramped, bathrooms made accessible, drinking fountains and telephones lowered to usable levels, in accordance with the ANSI standards. We also support all legislation encouraging more and more buildings in the private sector used by the public to be made accessible.

We support a revision of the City Building Code to require that 10% of all ground floor apartments in apartment complexes over ten units be build according to the ANSI standards.

We ask that City Council enact an ordinance requiring that 5% of parking slots in parking lots be extra-wide spaces to accomodate vehicles with wheelchair lifts.

We ask that the City pledge itself to make its portion of the downtown tunnel system accessible and that an ordinance be prepared requiring private companies controlling portions of the tunnels to make those portions totally accessible.

The Coalition specifically asks that five of the metered slots around the City Hall be replaced with handicapped-only slots and that the City Hall annex lot have five extra-wide handicapped-only slots.

MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR THE HANDICAPPED / EMPLOYMENT

There already exist many resources for the handicapped which, because of a lack of coordination, are inevitably used inefficiently. Moreover, many departments of city government are working at cross-purposes in this area. There is a great need for a separate, autonomous Mayor's Office for the Handicapped similar to those in New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Dallas. The Office's functions would include the following:

- (1) Co-ordination of services and planning within the city, including both
 - (A) Public Sector (transportation, community development, etc.)
 - (B) Private Sector (community resources such as neighborhood day care centers, private transportation resources, etc.)
- (2) Information source from one central point which would be comprehensive
- (3) Ombudsman function to protect the rights of the individual handicapped person
- (4) Development of new programs, including:
 - (A) Demographic Survey to assess needs
 - (B) Work with city's Affirmative Action program to determine employment opportunities for the handicapped. Organizations such as the CBFL would work with the City to disseminate such information.
 - (C) Survey current disabled municipal workers, and institute an inservice staff education program on employment capabilities of the handicapped.
- (5) Evaluation and assessment, to determine efficacy and need for change

May 14, 1978
Houston Post



Wheelchair-bound protesters picket theater

— Post photo by Manuel Chavez

Protesters in wheelchairs criticize access to theaters

Wheelchair-bound protesters picket theater

— Post photo by Manuel Chavez

Protesters in wheelchairs criticize access to theaters

By RICK BARRS
Post Reporter

The highly acclaimed movie *Coming Home*, whose principal character is a paraplegic veteran recently back from the Vietnam War, is playing at the Galleria III Cinema — but before Saturday, not to persons confined to wheelchairs.

And the only wheelchair-bound movie patrons who were able to see the movie Saturday had to be hand-carried into the theater. The problem is, the theater has no ramps, only steps.

To draw attention to the problems handicapped persons face in gaining access to public buildings, the Houston Coalition for Barrier Free Living staged a protest outside the theater prior to its 2:30 p.m. showing of the movie, starring actor Jon Voight as the paralyzed veteran.

At the protest, which drew a telegram from Voight and co-star Jane Fonda expressing their frustration that the movie was playing in a theater inaccessible to paraplegics, demonstrators carried placards with such slogans as, "*Coming Home* is a great movie! So I've heard" and "We came home — but . . . can't get in."

The protest was on the eve of National Handicapped Awareness Week beginning Sunday, protesters said.

Employees of the cinema, one of four owned by General Cinemas, Inc. in the Galleria shopping mall on Westheimer, lifted three protesters in their wheelchairs down the three steps to the theater lobby for the 2:30 p.m. show.

One of them was Charles Sabatier, a 32-year-old paraplegic originally from Galveston, who was shot in Vietnam in 1968 and lost the use of his legs. Like the character Voight plays in the *Coming Home*, Sabatier was a "buck sergeant" in the Army.

"Before I was shot in Vietnam at 22, I never even

thought about the problems handicapped people have in getting up and down stairs," said Sabatier, as he was plunking down \$2.50 for his ticket. "Now I sure think about it."

Though some Houston theaters are accessible to the handicapped, the majority are not, according to Sabatier and Lex Frieden, a spokesman for the barrier free living group.

State law requires that all public buildings constructed after Jan. 1 of this year, including movie theaters, be accessible to the handicapped, but the Galleria III and IV theaters were built before that time, Frieden said.

Elliott Brown, division manager for General Cinemas, said he sympathized with the problem and would find out why the theater does not have wheelchair ramps and other barrier-free features.

Brown noted that the theater's aisles are too narrow to accommodate patrons in wheelchairs comfortably. And, some of the protestors noted, the theater's bathrooms are up a flight of stairs on another floor from the theater.

Brown said his company's theaters at Greenspoint Mall on the North Freeway are "completely accessible" to the handicapped.

Bob Kafka, 32, coordinator of handicapped affairs at the University of Houston, said part of the issue is that handicapped persons "have pride just like everybody else" and want to be able to go to a movie without someone having to carry them in.

"This is embarrassing when you bring a date to the movies and someone has to carry you in," said Kafka, a Vietnam veteran who lost the use of his legs in an automobile accident after he returned from the war.

Imagine Life on an Obstacle Course

The club has more than 200 members, yet only about 30 can make it to the meetings. But then, that's the whole reason for having the club.

For members of the Coalition for Barrier Free Living, getting places is not easy. The Coalition is a group of mobility impaired individuals who joined together about a year and a half ago to work toward removing barriers in the environment. "Barrier free" simply implies a lack of obstacles. The intent is that buildings may be entered and used by all regardless of physical condition.

"We're not trying to change the world because we can't walk," says Nita Weil, head of the architectural barriers committee. "If people understand the problem before they build though, it makes things easier. We need public awareness and understanding that we are not street-corner cripples, but productive human beings."

The Coalition also works through committees on consumer affairs, housing, recreation and transportation. The members have been actively working on several projects in recent months. Three members have worked with the Rice Media Center on a film which will be aired on Channel 8 August 28th at 10:30 p.m. About 30 to 40 minutes long, the film covers the inter-relationship of barriers to the handicapped. "Rice Media Center offered to help us with the film," says Bob Kafka, president of the Coalition. "And they let us make the film the way we see the problems."

The Coalition is finishing another project this month—a wheelchair handbook to Houston. The guide lists theaters and restaurants that are accessible for the handicapped.

Future projects include a medical supply service with cut-rate prices, and possibly a housing

project for individuals to stay in immediately after leaving a hospital.

Today one out of every 10 persons in the U.S. has some disability preventing use of buildings which have been designed for the physically fit. And by 1985, it is predicted that the physically disabled may total more than 40 million.

Yet the handicapped have little access to the places and things that physically fit people enjoy. There are too many obstacles.

The Coalition has made some progress in removing barriers, al-

though there still is a long road ahead. Members encouraged the City to purchase six minibuses which are equipped for wheelchair-confined passengers. And approximately 350 curbs in the downtown area are to be cut within the next few months.

Although standards have been set and legislation passed regarding barriers, the problem is getting legislation enforced. Designs are frequently piecemeal and token efforts fail to provide maximal use. For instance, a ramp approach is built for a too-narrow doorway, or a curb is placed between the



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The International Symbol of Access was recently adopted as the universal designation to be placed on all adequate accessible facilities. Information and specifications as to its proper usage may be obtained from: Rehabilitation International, 219 East 44th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

parking area and an otherwise accessible building.

Making a building accessible to all involves several decisive factors. There should be at least one way to enter the building, readily

accessible to elevators and not through revolving doors. Doorways should be at least 32 inches wide, easily opened, and with sills flush with the floor or not more than one inch high.

Ramps could be installed instead of stairs when necessary, and should not exceed one foot of rise for each 12 feet of length. Risers should not exceed seven inches and handrails should be 32 inches high, extending 18 inches beyond top and bottom steps.

In restrooms, at least one toilet stall should be built wide enough for wheelchair entry and equipped with grab rails, and fixtures should be placed no higher than 40 inches above floor level.

Public phones, drinking fountains and elevator buttons should be at wheelchair height.

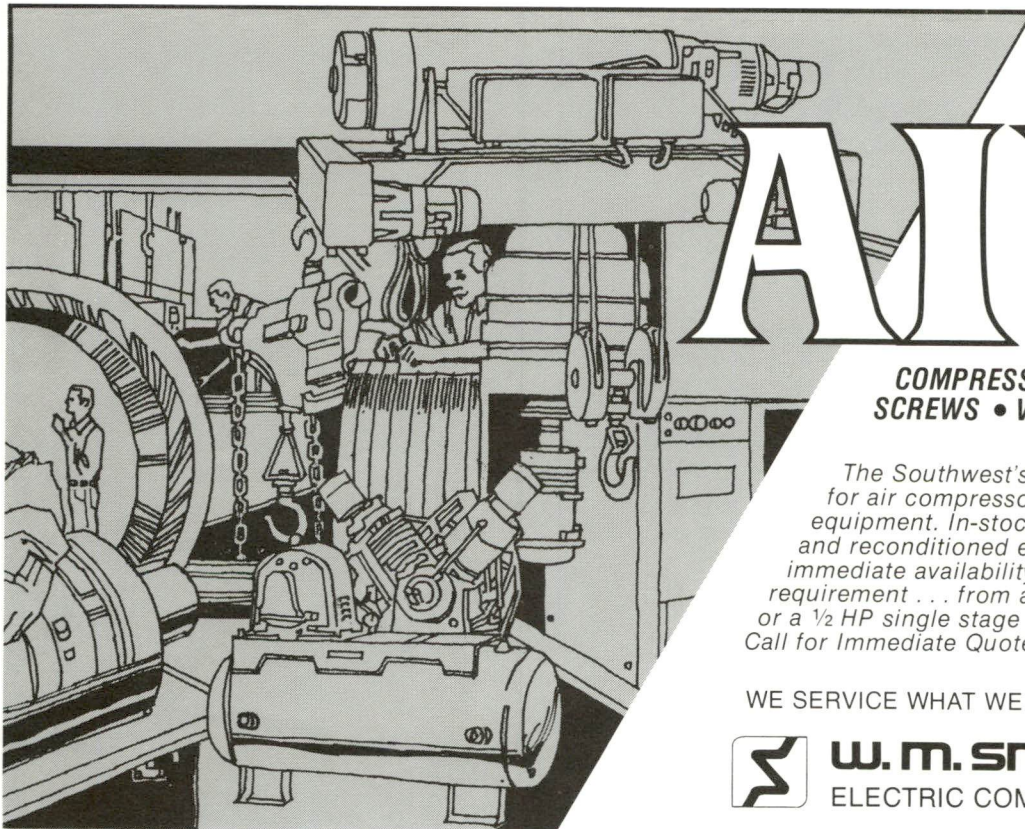
The majority of the Coalition's members are between the ages of 25 and 35, and about 90% of them are confined to wheelchairs. Recreation activities include fishing, ping pong, archery, precision javelin and standard

dashes. Once a year the group puts on a festival to raise funds for its various projects.

The Coalition's housing committee identifies accessible housing in the community, checking the light switches, electrical outlets appliances and width of doorways. "We want to communicate to homebuilders that there is a market for housing for the handicapped," says Lex Frieden, head of the committee. Presently, the club is trying to get a building code passed which will require that 10% to 20% of new housing (mainly apartments) be equipped for the disabled.

Frieden points out that the handicapped want to foster integration—not to live only with other handicapped people. Barriers thwart rehabilitation efforts by preventing the disabled from participating as contributing and productive members of society.

Hopefully, some day the disabled will be able—able to go where they want, when they want. But first the many barriers must be removed.



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DOWNPAYMENT from page 21

pensive extras and stay with basics so more people can afford indoor tennis." The one-time initiation fee is \$100 for individuals, \$175 for couples and \$225 for families. Members pay monthly dues that are \$8 for individuals, \$15 for couples and \$20 for families. Court fees range from \$3 to \$6.60 an hour.

The Sandpiper Tennis Club, 6220 Elm, one block off Hillcroft, offers no-frills tennis. Swimming pool, kiddie wading pool and lockers with showers are also provided, but the only game at The Sandpiper is tennis.

"Ten outdoor courts are completed, and two more outdoor courts and seven indoor courts are planned," says Truman Nicholas, owner. Single membership is \$100 a year; monthly dues are \$25. Husband and wife annual dues are \$150, with monthly dues \$35. Family memberships also are \$150 a year with monthly dues \$40.

If you are a tennis player who prefers a country club atmosphere, Westside Racquet Club, 1200 Wilcrest, may be your choice. Westside has six indoor tennis courts, 23 outdoor courts, lockers, sauna, whirlpool, gym, bar, grill and pool.

Adrian Bey, 10-times National Rhodesian tennis champion and three-time Davis Cup team captain, is director of tennis at Westside. Adrian also won the National 35 hardcourt singles and doubles championships.

Westside is a family club with emphasis on teaching tennis, especially to young people. "One is very lucky to ever develop a champion," Adrian says, "but good health and tennis scholarships are worthwhile goals. I like to motivate the young players, get them away from TV and movies and out on the courts."

Westside does not publish membership fees.

If tennis isn't your game, Court Sports, a handball and racquetball club at 2620 Tanglewilde, may be just what you are looking for.

Court Sports is located in a brown cedar and stucco two-story contemporary building in a wooded area adjacent to Wood-



Breaking Down Barriers

Imagine, for a moment, that you are in a wheelchair and you would like to visit an art gallery or maybe there is a new show in town and you want to go to the theater or perhaps you want to try the food in that new restaurant you heard about.

No problem, you would probably think.

So you make your plans, you get ready to go, you arrive at your destination.

And there, leading into the main entry, are steps - something most people never think about but to you they are insurmountable objects. Surely, you think, there must be at least one accessible entrance and so you look around.

But no, whoever built this building did not have you in mind.

Maybe the paintings were not worth seeing, perhaps the food was bad and the show dreary, but you never had a chance to find out.

Or it might be that you did find a ramp into the building only to discover that, once inside, there was a staircase and no elevator or the aisles were too narrow or the seating space was inadequate to accommodate a wheelchair.

If you were lucky, none of these barriers were present, but it is quite probable that when you returned to your car you found that another automobile had parked in the space next to you leaving too little room for you to get into your car. The list goes on.

It is bad enough that so many places do have architectural barriers. It is worse when you do not know which places are accessible.

To help people in wheelchairs deal with these problems, the Coalition for Barrier-Free Living has published "A Guide to Houston for the Handicapped."

Printed with a donation from the Auxiliary to the Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, the Guidebook has hundreds of listings with information contributed by many wheelchair users in the greater Houston area.

The Coalition is an organization of both wheelchair users and able bodied people interested in creating an environment that is accessible to everyone. The Guidebook is part of the Coalition's effort to identify accessible facilities while conducting a campaign to eliminate architectural barriers.

Most of the people in this 120 member organization are active young adults who

have learned from personal experience that although modern rehabilitation methods have greatly increased the mobility of many disabled people, barriers in the environment frequently deny those people access to public buildings, shops, public transportation, restaurants, theaters, places of potential employment, residential facilities and other structures.

"Many times," says Will Clark, President of the Coalition, "the problem is lack of public awareness of the needs of handicapped people."

One of the major functions of the Coalition is to serve as an information resource and educational effort for the public generally and specifically for public officials and owners of private facilities. The goal is not only to inform people as to how buildings can be built architecturally accessible but how improvements in accessibility can frequently be made with minimal cost and effort such as ramping one entry to a restaurant, installing a couple of removable seats to create wheelchair space in a theater or moving one check out counter a few inches to widen an aisle in a grocery store.

Members try to work with persons responsible for new buildings before or during the early stages of construction. This type of activity helped make Houston's new entertainment arena, the Summit, accessible with places for wheelchair seating and parking arrangements for the handicapped.

Curbs in downtown Houston will be ramped next year due to a proposal written by the Coalition for Houston's Community Development Division, a federal program for urban renewal which includes funds to support environmental improvements for the handicapped.

"Federal and state laws," said Nita Weil, head of the Architectural Barriers Committee, "require that structures built with public money be made accessible to the handicapped. And yet, many such buildings are not accessible because there is little provision for enforcement of these laws."

Although most of our environment has been designed for people who are physically fit, the number of those who have physical handicaps is not small. One out of every 10 persons in the United States today has a physical handicap and this population is rapidly growing as advances in medicine allow more and more people to survive disabling illness and injury. Add to this the number of persons handicapped by the infirmities of aging, heart condition and other mobility limiting conditions common in our society and one has a sizeable group.

To explain the problems imposed by barriers, the Coalition made a film several months ago with the assistance of the



Rice University Media Center. "The film shows barriers from the perspective of the wheelchair user," said Bob Kafka, Vice President of the Coalition. "It was written, directed, shot and edited by three members and it was shown on Houston television on Channel 8."

In addition to architectural barriers, the film describes the Coalition's efforts in public transportation, an area of much concern because of the almost total inaccessibility of public transit systems and the inability of many handicapped people to drive or afford the expense of private transportation.

The Urban Mass Transportation Act calls for mass transportation facilities and services to be planned and designed so as to be available to elderly and handicapped persons.

Coalition members encouraged the Houston Transit System to acquire six mini buses with wheelchair lifts and helped map out two of the three routes the mini buses now travel.

These bus routes are proving to be so successful that the city is thinking of buying additional vehicles. The Coalition's goal in this area is a city wide mass transit system accessible to all Houstonians whether handicapped or able-bodied.

Architectural barriers and transportation are not the only issues of concern. The handicapped face problems in many aspects of living. The Coalition has committees to work on housing problems, employment opportunities and consumer affairs.

To promote athletic activities for handicapped people, the group co-sponsored this year, with the Southwest Wheelchair Athletic Association, the first invitational where wheelchair bound athletes demonstrated skill in track and field events, swimming, weight-lifting, table tennis and archery.

The Coalition is working for the passage of a building code which requires that ten percent of first floor apartments in large complexes be accessible.

Future projects include a peer counseling service, a public awareness campaign and speakers bureau, an architectural barriers survey and the establishment of an Office of Human Development in city government.

Recently, Coalition members participated in regional and state conferences held in preparation for the National White House Conference on the Handicapped to be held in Washington, D.C., in May, 1977. At this national meeting, handicapped people from all over the country will work together to form recommendations for Congress. Hopefully, these recommendations will result in meaningful legislation.

Many local organizations involved with the handicapped support the efforts of the Coalition. Groups such as Paralyzed Veterans of America and Easter Seal Society have representatives among the membership.

Dr. William A. Spencer, President of T.I.R.R., said, "Many of the members of the Coalition are former patients of T.I.R.R. who have been rehabilitated and have returned to the mainstream of living to find that their choices of activities are frequently and unnecessarily limited by architectural and attitudinal barriers. These barriers restrict rehabilitation efforts by preventing the disabled from participating fully as contributing and productive members of society.

"The efforts that those of us in rehabilitation make to restore the individual to his maximum independence must be accompanied by an effort in the community to make the resources in our society accessible to everyone. The fact that the handicapped members of the Coalition are making this community effort on their own behalf is proof that rehabilitation works, that the disabled can be restored to independence if given a second chance. But it is only when barriers of every kind have been removed, and we have an environment equally accessible to all of our citizens, that we will see how truly able the rehabilitated disabled can be."

For further information on the Coalition for Barrier-Free Living contact the Coalition office, located in the Easter Seal Society building at 3630 West Dallas. Telephone: 526-1651.

CURRENT COALITION PROJECTS BY COMMITTEE

1. Architectural Barriers- Nita Weil

A. Guide Book project. Locate area civic clubs willing to distribute the questionnaire. The ideal situation would be to integrate the survey into the Southwestern B Bell Yellow Pages with accesible buildings and facilities marked with the international access symbol.

x B. Tunnel System Downtown- produce a detailed map of the system for the mobility impaired.

C. Curb Cuts- Monitor closely city activities. Check the slope of the new curb cuts to make sure they have the proper 12 inch horizontal for every one inch rise. Some of the new cuts we recently tested were too steep. Continue working with City Transportation on the location of curb cuts in outlying areas.

D. Bus Routes- Work with Community Deevlopment on coordinating routes, curb cuts, and the tunnel system.

E. New Construction- Jim Ellenberg has been sending our form letters to new construction builders urging them to make their structures accesible. We have been getting our leads from the Houston Business Journal. Any other ideas in this realm?

F. Buildings that are accesible should be marked properly so handicapped persons can find the proper entrance quickly. Perhaps a form letter fitting this particular situation can be worked out.

2. Employment Committee

A. Advance work for Octobber job fair, including collection of resumes in advance for presentation to employers.

#. Public Relations- Bob Kafka

A. Public Service announcements- who will do them and when? Content?

B. Recruitment of new members. Formulate an introductory packet of materials. Decide where to distribute it.

C. Continue displaying film and designate three or four members of the Coalition as speakers to go out and make presentations to clubs, civic groups, and other organizations.

D. New Film Project.

E. Purchase a polaroid camera and portable sony tape recorder. These will come in handy bboth for recording events and presentations as well as conducting accesibility investigations.

F. Update membership list.

G. Bring in out-of-town speakers who can tell us about the tactics and successful struggles of handicapped activist groups in other cities.

H. Newsletter- consider offsetting it at HMN so photos could be included in the layout.

4. Legal

A. Tax exempt status- we don't have it and badly need it. Will is going to talk to the lawyer.

B. Potential suit against the city concerning kbus accessibility. See Transportation Committee.

5. Social Action- Marilyn Golden

A. Follow up on the previous mailout to determine legislative results. Find out who voted for what. Rate legislators on their responsiveness to the needs of the mobility impaired. We could follow this with a news release for local papers and radio designating our best (and worst) legislator for handicapped rights.

B. Upcoming Special Legislative Session in Austin. Will any legislation of particular interest to the Coalition ~~be~~ be considered?

C. Explore the idea of a statewide Coalition. Also begin forging links (exchanging newsletters maybe) with organizations like the Disability Rights Center in Washington or the National Center for Law and the Handicapped.

D. Begin gearing up for the city elections. Need a comprehensive strategy.

6. Housing Committee

A. Robert Juarez of the Housing Authority wants to get together with us to determine future housing needs of the handicapped in Houston.

B. The Coalition should consider publishing a pamphlet- "Guide to housing for the mobility impaired in Houston."

7. Misc.

A. Medical Supply Business- this would be a profit-making business enterprise designed to supply equipment for the mobility impaired at a much lower price range than is now available. Ed Rosenwasser, who has handled the project up to now, says we need approximately \$10,000 more in seed money and that this can only be raised if we get a charitable tax status.

B. Ed suggests we send a representative to the upcoming Disabled Expo in Chicago to photograph displays and gather printed material on equipment and price ranges.

8. Transport Committee- Bob Geyer

A. Bus Accesibility- Al Bronson, our lawyer, will draw up the suit, hopefully by early next week. It will ask that the city be forced to modify its purchase of 251 new buses to include lifts for wheelchairs.

B. Special rates on mini-busses. The City will allegedly give handicapped people special rates for renting mini-buses for outings. Just how much is still up in the air, and in any case the mini-bus can accomodate only three wheelchairs.

BYLAWS
COALITION FOR BARRIER-FREE LIVING

Chapter I. NAME & PURPOSE

Article 1.

The name of the organization shall be the COALITION FOR BARRIER-FREE LIVING, also referred to as CBFL.

Article 2.

The purpose of the CBFL shall be to minimize the barriers that obstruct the handicapped individual from achieving the equality of opportunity and respect due every human being.

Article 3.

A physically handicapped individual is one who is or has been a consumer of rehabilitation services as defined by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Chapter II. MEMBERSHIP

Article 1.

An active member is one who participates in committee activities and who has paid annual dues of five dollars (\$5.00) for the current fiscal year of the CBFL.

Article 2.

An associate member is an organization who has paid annual dues of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the current CBFL fiscal years.

Article 3.

An inactive member is one who has defaulted on payment of dues or committee activities.

Article 4.

An honorary member is one who has rendered exceptional service to the purpose of the CBFL.

Article 5.

Only active members may hold elective office.

Article 6.

Each active member and associate member shall exercise the right of one vote.

Chapter III. BODIES

Article 1.

These are established as the principal bodies of the CBFL: a General Assembly, a Council of Directors, the Standing Committees, a President, a Vice-President, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Recording Secretary.

Article 2.

Such auxiliary bodies and positions as may be found necessary may be established by the President, subject to the approval of a simple majority of the Council of Directors.

Chapter IV. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 1.

The General Assembly shall consist of all the members present at a general meeting.

Article 2.

General meetings shall be held no less often than bi-monthly.

Article 3.

A quorum shall consist of one quarter (1/4) of the active members.

Article 4.

The General Assembly may discuss any questions or any matter within the scope of the present bylaws or relating to the powers and functions of any body provided for in these bylaws.

Article 5.

The General Assembly has the power to overturn any decision of the Council of Directors by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Article 6.

Any other questions are to be decided by simple majority vote.

Article 7.

The General Assembly shall approve all expenditures incurred on the behalf of the CBFL exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00).

Article 8.

During a General Assembly meeting held in the last month of the fiscal year, there shall be elections held for the offices of President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and the additional members of the Council of Directors to serve for the next fiscal years. When the General Assembly is notified of this meeting, they shall be notified that this vote is to be taken.

Article 9.

The General Assembly may meet in special sessions as occasion may require. Special sessions shall be called by the President, or upon written request of a simple majority of the Council of Directors or one quarter (1/4) of the General Assembly.

Chapter V. THE COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS SHALL:

Article 1.

Consist of all elected officials and six (6) additional elected by the General Assembly.

Article 2.

(a) Determine eligibility and class of membership; (b) Have the prerogative of waiving dues by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Article 3.

Convene at least monthly.

Article 4.

Have the prerogative of all legislative power not explicitly delegated to any other body.

Article 5.

Determine when any member shall be suspended for repeated violations of the bylaws.

Article 6.

Approve all expenditures incurred on behalf of the CBFL exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Chapter VI. COMMITTEES

Article 1.

Committees shall be formed that relate to the purpose of the CBFL.

Standing committees shall be:

- A. Transportation
- B. Architectural Barrier Sub-Committee Guide Book
- C. Legislative
- D. Public Relations
- E. Consumer and Medical Services
- F. Housing
- G. Employment
- H. Fund Raising

Article 2.

Additional committees shall be formed at the discretion of the Council of Directors by simple majority vote.

Article 3.

Any committee other than a standing one may be dissolved by a simple majority vote of the General Assembly.

Article 4.

Each member of the CBFL shall choose the committee(s) on which he/she are to serve or be assigned to a committee by the Council of Directors.

Article 5.

Each committee shall elect a chairperson from among the committee members.

Article 6.

Each committee may make recommendations in writing of findings that are relevant to the goals of the committee to the CBFL, the General Assembly, the Council of Directors, or the President.

Article 7.

Each committee may set the time and place of its meetings.

Article 8.

Each chairperson shall have the responsibility for the minutes of each committee meeting and shall be responsible for submitting the minutes to the Recording Secretary two weeks after each committee meeting.

Chapter VII. ELECTIVE OFFICES

Article 1.

- (a) The term of office shall be one year and be held only by active members.
- (b) The President and Vice-President shall be physically handicapped.
- (c) Six (6) of the remaining elective officers or Council of Director members shall be physically handicapped.

Article 2.

The President shall:

- (a) Be the Chief Executive officer of the CBFL and the Council of Directors.
- (b) Have the prerogative of all executive duties not designated to other bodies in these bylaws.
- (c) Preside at all meetings of the General Assembly and the Council of Directors.
- (d) Have a vote only in the event of a tie.
- (e) Appoint all non-elective officers with majority approval of the Council of Directors.
- (f) Be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- (g) Be limited to two (2) consecutive terms.

Article 3.

The Vice-President shall:

- (a) Perform all duties and exercise all powers of the President in the President's absence.
- (b) Succeed to the presidency in case of a vacancy in that office and serve out that term.

Article 4.

The Corresponding Secretary shall:

- (a) Take care of all correspondence pertaining to transactions of the business of the CBFL.
- (b) Give notice of all regular and special meetings to those relevant members.
- (c) Keep an accurate record of all memberships and dues.

Article 5.

The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Be the Chief Fiscal Officer of the CBFL.
- (b) Receive all funds paid to the CBFL and shall deposit such funds in such banks as the Council of Directors may designate.
- (c) Pay all bills for expenditures of the CBFL after those bills have been certified and approved by the Council of Directors.
- (d) Keep or cause to be kept in suitable form detailed accounts of the assets, liabilities, receipts and disbursements of the CBFL.
- (e) Render financial reports at all General Assembly and Council of Directors meetings.

Article 6.

The Recording Secretary shall:

- (a) Be responsible for the recording of all minutes of all meetings.
- (b) Be responsible for the recording attendance at all General Assembly and Council of Directors meetings.

Chapter VIII. FINANCE

Article 1.

The CBFL shall be a non-profit organization.

Article 2.

Any expense incurred in behalf of the CBFL not exceeding fifty-dollars (\$50.00) shall have the prior approval of the President and Treasurer.

Article 3.

The CBFL may upon a simple majority vote of the Council of Directors accept dues, gifts, grants, contracts, and make and let contracts in connection with the operations of the CBFL.

Article 4.

No elective office shall be salaried.

Article 5.

The signatories of all CBFL expenditures shall be the President and Treasurer.

Chapter IX. DISSOLUTION OF THE CBFL.

Article 1.

The CBFL may be dissolved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Assembly at a special meeting specifically called for such purpose.

Article 2.

Upon dissolution all assets remaining after paying the CBFL obligations shall be distributed by the General Assembly to those organizations sharing the purpose in Chapter 1, Article 2.

Chapter X. RECORDS

Article 1.

The books shall be audited annually by a qualified individual approved by the Council of Directors.

Article 2.

All books and records of the CBFL may be inspected by any member upon reasonable request.

Chapter XI. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the CBFL shall commence on the 1st day of October and shall end on the last day of September of the following year.

Chapter XII. PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY

A Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the President with majority approval of the Council of Directors. Roberts Rules of Order, revised, latest edition, shall govern the meetings of the CBFL.

Chapter XIII. VOTING

All votes shall be by simple majority unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.

Chapter XIV. QUORUM

A quorum shall consist of one-fourth (1/4) of the relevant body.

Chapter XV. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Notice of any general assemble meeting where a vote is to be considered shall state the time, place, and purpose and shall be served personally or by mail to those relevant members and shall be at least two (2) weeks prior to such meeting.

Chapter XVI.

(a) No individual or group may represent the CBFL to any other individual or organization without previous majority approval of the Council of Directors or the General Assembly.

(b) Each associate member shall submit in writing an executive order designating its representative to the CBFL.

Chapter XVII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the present bylaws shall come into force for all members of the CBFL when they have been adopted by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the General Assembly.

Chapter XVIII. RATIFICATION

These bylaws have been amended, accepted, and ratified in a General Assembly meeting.

President

Secretary

Date



coalition for barrier free living post office box 20803 houston, texas 77025

February 9, 1976

Dear Member, Architectural Barriers Committee,

I spoke with Mr. H.E. Naumann, who is with the Texas State Building Commission, and in charge of the Houston area. He was calling in regard to Douglas Lawson's visit to our General Meeting, and the information we gave him at that time.

He is very happy to learn of the Coalition's work, and would welcome a list of places that we know to be architecturally inaccessible. He suggested that we compile such a list, document it thoroughly, and then send our representative(s), to appear before the City Council, where we can explain that people are simply ignoring the law. We need either a penalty clause or fine introduced into the Legislature, and all of us must get behind this effort and exert pressure by writing our Representatives, Congressmen and Senators. Attached is a list of legislators, and a sample of what you might say.

He further stated that we need a Lobby in Austin, when the Legislature meets again, and push for enforcement of the building code. The laws are useless without the means to enforce them.

Mr. Naumann informed me that we cannot force buildings to modify, unless they are remodeling or rebuilding their structure. We should list only those buildings that we know are being planned without adherence to the building code or which are in construction. If you wish to write or contact him, the address is: P.O. Box 12427, Austin, Texas 78711, and there is a phone in Baytown where he can be reached, 422-7207. Get busy and start writing to these public office holders; they are influenced by their mail, and every letter is vital to our cause.

Sincerely,

Nita Weil

Nita Weil

Chairman, Architectural Barriers Committee

Telephone: 797-1440 x 375.

House of Representatives

Wright Patman
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Charles Wilson
1504 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Wash., D.C. 20515

James M. Collins
2419 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Ray Roberts
2455 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Alan W. Steelman
437 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Olin E. Teague
2311 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Bill Archer
1024 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Bob Eckhardt
1741 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Jack Brooks
2449 Rayburn Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

J. J. Pickle
231 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

William R. Poage
2107 Rayburn Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

James C. Wright, Jr.
2459 Rayburn Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Jack Hightower
1315 Longworth Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

John Young
2204 Rayburn Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Kika de la Garza
1434 Longworth Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Richard C. White
2423 Rayburn Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Omar Burleson
2369 Rayburn Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Barbara C. Jordan
1534 Longworth Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

George H. Mahon
2314 Rayburn Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Henry B. Gonzalez
2312 Rayburn Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Robert C. Krueger
512 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Robert R. Casey
2256 Rayburn Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Abraham Kazen, Jr.
1514 Longworth Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

Dale Milford
430 Cannon Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20515

U. S. Senators

John G. Tower
142 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20510

Lloyd M. Bentzen
240 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Wash., D. C. 20510

County Commissioners

County Judge Jon Lindsay
Family Law Center
1115 Congress Avenue
Houston, TX 77002

Four County Commissioners

Tom Bass
James Fonteno
Bob Eckels
E. A. Lyons - all at same address as above.

SAMPLE LETTER

We are appreciative of your efforts to help us remove the barriers that keep disabled people handicapped, but we urgently need a "penalty clause" or "fine", since many people simply ignore the State and Federal Building Code making buildings that are built with State or Federal Funds accessible. There is nothing that can be done about it at present, and this makes the Law useless. We urgently need enforcement Legislation.

I urge you to press this issue when next the Texas Legislature meets.

COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING

T.I.R.R. Library

BOARD MEETING

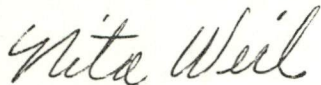
JUNE 3, 1976

Don Rossi met with Dr. Spencer on behalf of the Consumer Affairs Committee. A list of M.D.'s will be compiled who will treat former TIRR patients. CBFL will be the source referral for the physicians. Motions: 1. A major business firm will be contacted for donation of telephone and answering services, if this fails to materialize money will be set aside for purchase of a telephone and answering service, and this will be carried out within the next thirty days. 2. Check with Indoor Sports to see if they would be responsible for the placement of a telephone in one of their houses or any other person, who might contribute to this service. 3. All parties involved in the routes S-1, S-2, S-3 will be invited to the next meeting with Houtran on July 7, 1976. 4. All Social Service Agencies will be appraised on Routes S-1, S-2, and S-3, by Bob Geyer. 5. Bob Geyer is to write a letter informing PILTO, CBFL's intent to join as a plaintive in their suit against UMTA. The letter is to have the approval of Attorney, David T. Lopez, prior to being submitted. 6. Ray Lenart and Don Rossi have drafted a letter to be sent to Governor Brisco expressing CBFL's dissatisfaction with Jess Irwin's failure to respond to our invitation to meet with him. 7. SWAA, Southwest Wheelchair Athletic Association will be allowed to share CBFL's P. O. Box Number and the proportionate care of the cost. 8. Bob Geyer will acquire list of all of the buildings which have tunnels which need alterations so that letters be drafted to them concerning alternations so that they will be accessible.

Report from Nita Weil that the Houston Business Journal has been subscribed to and that letters will be sent to each new construction listing.

It was recommended by the President, Bobby Kafka, that a speakers bureau to set up which will be available for any speaking, lectures, etc. The group representing CBFL will be composed of three Board Members drawn at random for each occasion.

Respectively submitted,



Nita Weil,
Recording Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

RECEIVED

L. L. R.

HOUSTON TEXAS

AUG 6 1976

August 2, 1976

A.M. P.M.
7|8|9|10|11|12|1|2|3|4|5|6

A

Dear Friend:

The Office for Handicapped Individuals (OHI), as part of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, is performing a study on the long-range service needs of handicapped individuals.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 mandates that information from this study be submitted to Congress. We anticipate that this report will aid and influence the Congress in the future with respect to legislation on the needs of citizens who have handicapping conditions. Also, data will be analyzed and available for use by the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

In order to complete this study successfully, it is important that handicapped individuals may have an opportunity to input their knowledge, experience and views into this study. Your help is needed, and we would appreciate it if you would complete the questionnaire and return it to us in the envelope provided.

We are interested in receiving your completed questionnaire as soon as possible. Our target is to have all questionnaires in the mail to us by August 31, 1976.

Participation by your organization in this survey is voluntary. Your responses will not be identified by your local organization or name.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and assistance in this study.

Sincerely,

William J. Bean

William J. Bean, Ph.D.
Acting Director, Office for
Handicapped Individuals

*returned in felaf
of CBF 8/22 L.J.*

COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING

T.I.R.R.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

MAY 26, 1976

The meeting was called to order by Bobby Kafka with the following present: Barbara & Ray Lenart, Joe Villareal, Linda Pickle, Norfa Velgar, Will Clark, Flo Jennings, Sharon Skamenca, Bobby Kafka and Nita Weil.

Bobby Kafka discussed how other organizations can assist CBFL efforts: 1. Building Code Changes; 2, CBFL Fall Festival; 3, Co-Sponsor with TIRR, the Job Fair for the Handicapped. 4. A presidential letter, by Bobby Kafka, will be written for the July issue of the CBFL Newsletter regarding CBFL's accomplishments. 5. Ray Lenart suggested that a questionnaire should be sent out to the CBFL Membership polling them as to what the priorities of CBFL should be. 6. The CBFL Fall Festival was discussed and the possibilities of a Raffle are to be outlined. In addition a tentative date, July 9, was set for Monte Carlo Night. The people who will work on this are Bobby Kafka, Will Clark and Barbara Lenart.

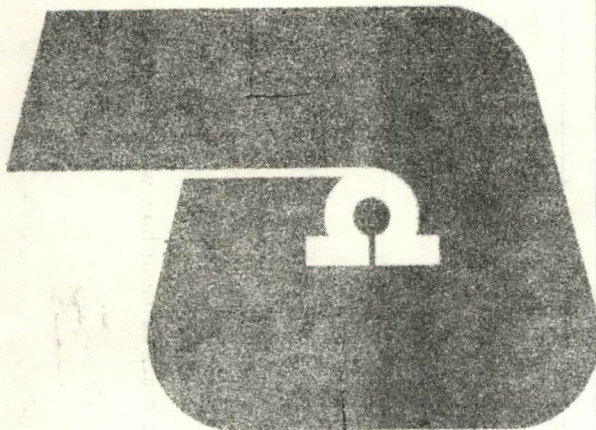
The Fair Market Rate for rent subsidies was raised from \$144.00 per month to \$155.00 per month. The lottery system has been done away with to determine eligibility for rent subsidies. Over 1,000 people have been certified so far.

Respectively submitted,

Nita Weil

Nita Weil,
Recording Secretary

OKLAHOMA COALITION OF CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES



OCCD
THE LAST MINORITY

What is OCCD?

OCCD is a true coalition of handicapped persons. All disabled people and their families are eligible for membership in OCCD.

OCCD is an affiliate of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, a national organization leading the struggle for the civil rights of the handicapped.

OCCD is the voice of the handicapped, speaking out against injustice, neglect, and discrimination at federal, state and local levels of government.

OCCD is the only organization of its kind in Oklahoma. OCCD is a grass-roots organization of handicapped consumers, supported by the Oklahoma Federation of the Blind, the Oklahoma Association of the Deaf and local handicapped groups all across the state.

HISTORY

OCCD was founded in 1977, the year of the White House Conference on the Handicapped. Having worked together in preparation for the White House Conference, many disabled persons wanted to maintain the close ties of cooperation they had developed. Therefore, a convention was held in Tulsa, attended by more than 150 persons, including Eunice Fiorito, President of ACCD, and Lex Frieden, Secretary of ACCD.

OCCD was formally established on April 1 and was accepted for membership in ACCD shortly thereafter. OCCD sent a full slate of delegates to the national convention of ACCD held in Washington D.C. prior to the White House Conference.

Officers and board members of OCCD are:

President: **Mike Phillips**, 2223 E. 54th, Tulsa, OK 74105

First Vice President, **Ray Jones**, 1410 N.W. 19th, Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Second Vice President, **Jack Earwood**, 918 Crown Dr. Edmond, OK 73034

Treasurer, **Dan Lindsey**, Box 77, Vinita, OK 74301

Secretary, **Sandy Beasley**, 2700 N. Van Buren No. 222, Enid, OK 73701

Board Member, **Maureen Butler**, 5368 E. 30th St., Tulsa, OK 74114

Board Member, **Karol Caldwell**, Rt. 1, Box 254C, Calera, OK 74730

Board Member, **Gail Dunskey**, 1616 E. Alameda, Apt. C-3, Norman, OK 73071

Board Member, **Joe Fallin**, 323 S. Main, Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Board Member, **W.T. Griffing**, Box 395, Sulphur, OK 73086

Board Member, **Helen Kutz**, 1235 Dakota, Norman, OK 73071

*At: N.E.T. O.C.C.D. Board
Meeting in Nov 19, in Tulsa @
Center for Physically Limited,
815 S. Utica (off I 244),
from 10 AM to 3 PM. Board
Meetings are open to all!
Come - and help make OCCD be
Big and Better !!*

Why Join OCCD?

Because we, as disabled people, can accomplish great things if we unite in common cause. Though our disabilities may be different, we are faced with similar problems. We face discrimination in employment, education, transportation, housing, and virtually every other facet of our lives.

As the Omega in our logo symbolizes, we are truly the last minority. We must unite as other minorities have united. We must not wait for others to solve our problems. We must take action now. We have the ability, and together we have the strength to change our lives for the better.

OCCD is the organization through which we can act, but first we must join.

Types of Membership

Active Member: open to disabled persons or their families. All active members must be residents of the state of Oklahoma and may vote at the annual meeting. Dues - \$10.00 per year.

Inactive Member: open to all residents of the state of Oklahoma who are not eligible to be active members. This is a non-voting membership. Dues - \$5.00 per year.

Affiliate Member: open to any organization composed primarily of disabled consumers. This is a non-voting membership. Dues - \$50.00 per year.

Associate Member: open to any organization which supports the goals, objectives and purposes of OCCD. This is a non-voting membership. Dues - \$50.00 per year.

Sustaining Member: open to any person who supports the goals, objectives and purposes of OCCD. This is a non-voting membership. Dues - \$500.00 per year.

Telephone _____

Zip _____

Please enroll me as a member of OCCD Active (\$10.00) Inactive (\$5.00) Sustaining (\$500.00)

Please enroll this organization in OCCD as an Affiliate (\$50.00) Associate (\$50.00)

Members of OCCD automatically receive the newsletter. The annual subscription price for non-members is \$3.00 for four issues.

Please send me the OCCD newsletter. My \$3.00 is included.

I would like to contribute more than my membership dues to the work of OCCD. Please have someone contact me about how I can be of assistance.

We are interested in learning more about OCCD. Please have someone contact us about speaking to a group of our members.

We are interested in helping with the work of OCCD. Please have someone contact us about how we might be of assistance.

(Mail to OCCD, Box 77, Vinita, OK 74301)

Pg 102 of this newsletter are actually the OCCD Booklet + logo (Designed by Ken Butler of Tulsa)

REPORT FROM THE OOOD TREASURER

Income:

Active Membership Dues	88000
Associate Membership Dues	20500
DONATIONS	52700
Advertising	7500
INCOME NO receipt	<u>1000</u>
	169700

EXPENSES:

Sheraton INN Skyline East	9123
George DRISKELL INS. (Bond FOR TRBS)	2400
A.C.E.D Membership Dues	5000
Office expense:	
Schaefer's Inc	1295
Vinita Post Office	1300
Mike Phillips (office et ph. exp)	11992
O.C.C.D. Deposit STAMP	320
Rhodes PRINTING (Letter heads)	<u>16536</u>
	31443
Wesbanco Supplies for NEWSLETTER	<u>48812</u>
Net INCOME	72929

Club Dues Received

OK Federation of Blind	5000
NO-HO	5000
BARTLESVILLE HANDICAP INC	5000
WIN	5000
IRA E SANDITTEN FOUNDATION	5000
OK ASSOCIATION OF DEAF	5000

BOOK Balance	121987
PLUS UNRECORDED DEPOSIT 10-6	<u>3500</u>
	125487
LESS CHECKS OUTSTANDING	<u>42065</u>

Adjusted BANK BALANCE 83422

REMARKS BY MIKE PHILLIPS-OGOD PRESIDENT

LET'S MAKE OURSELVES HEARD!

There is a wonderful Dr. Seuss story about a whole world of tiny people living on a speck of dust. They are in great danger because the jungle animals refuse to believe there are people on the speck of dust. In order to save themselves, the tiny people must all join their voices together and loudly shout to make the animals hear them.

This story could serve as a parable of the plight of handicapped people in this society. Most people prefer to believe that we do not exist. Those architects and builders who resist incorporating barrier free design in their buildings do so on the excuse that there really "aren't that many people in wheelchairs." The argument against captioned TV programs for the deaf runs the same way: "The small market for closed captioning simply doesn't justify the cost." And so it goes.

Handicapped persons are constantly forced to prove we exist in sufficient numbers to "justify" changes needed to improve our lives. We are like those tiny people on that speck of dust. In order to help ourselves we must convince people that we are actually here. We must make ourselves heard. We must do it by writing letters to the editor, by calling in to radio talk shows, by putting bumper stickers on our cars, by contacting our senators or representatives, or by attending meetings of our local school boards or city commissions. We must speak up, speak out, and speak often. Only by joining all our voices together in one great shout can we save ourselves from being out of sight and out of mind.

Principal speaker, OGGD President Mike Phillips,
and lovely wife Judy, with Dr. D. Clemans, attending
the annual Bartlesville Mayor's Com. for the E. of H.



LOYAL LAPLANTE SUPPLY CO:

1519 S. Lewis

Tulsa

Phone: Home 622-8890

Office 932-3177

E&J Wheelchair & products, parts and service

Auto lifts and patient lifts

Auto hand controls

Wheelchair cushions

Stainless Medical Products Wheelchairs

Active-Aid Shower Commode Chairs

"THE HANDICAPPED SERVING THE HANDICAPPED"

Check with Loyal on Van Lifts!

Electric Wheelchair Repairs

Civitan Club of
led Dr.
st annual

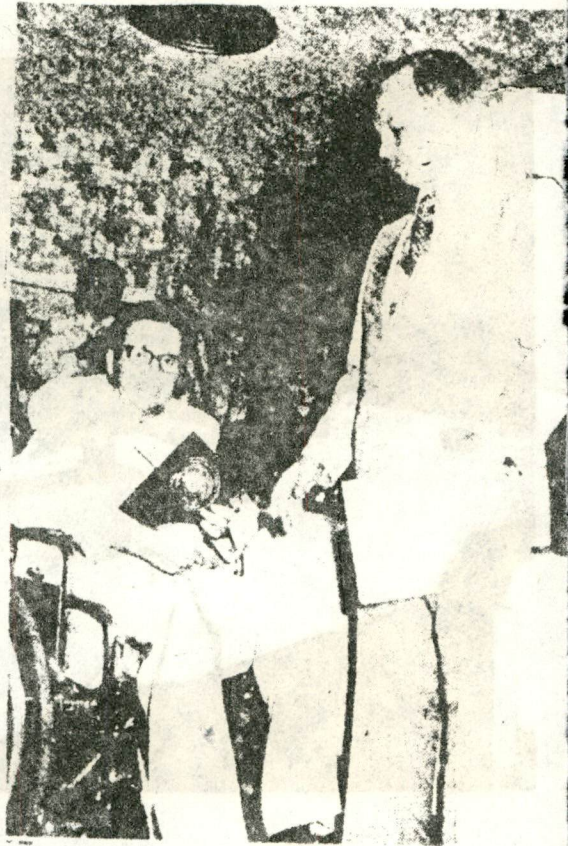
"Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award." The award was presented to Dr. Clemans at the Uptown club's annual installation banquet Tuesday evening at the Brightside restaurant by outgoing club president Roger Alexander.

Dr. Clemans graduated from the University of Oklahoma Medical School in 1952 and received further anesthesia training at Veteran's Hospital in 1964 as an anesthesiologist and is currently medical director at Jane Phillips Episcopal-Memorial Medical Center. Dr. Clemans and his wife, Mary, have two grown daughters.

Dr. Clemans was cited for his active service in his profession as well as outstanding service to his fellow man in spite of his own personal handicaps. The award proclamation stated that even though Dr. Clemans has developed Multiple Sclerosis and has been confined to a wheel chair for the past seven years, he is both active on the medical staff and very active in working with others who are handicapped. Dr. Clemans received a standing ovation by the Uptown members and their spouses as he accepted the award.

Ron Matthews, a member of the Uptown club and Lt. Governor of the Oklahoma-Kansas District, installed the new officers for the 1977-78 years. The new officers are Charles Parsons, president; Tom Whittaker, president-elect; Eldo Hessong, secretary and Earl Shobe, treasurer. Dale Smith provided entertainment at the meeting.

Bartlesville, Oklahoma Examiner-Enterprise

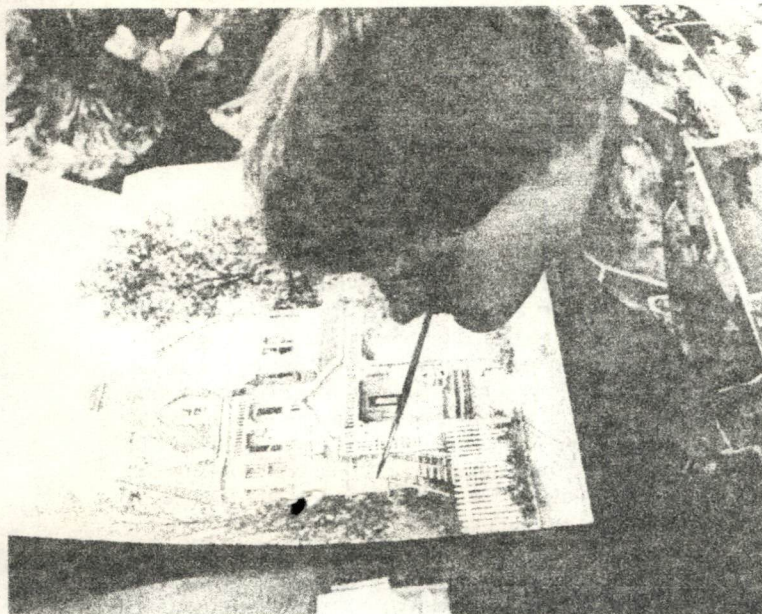


Civitan Award

Dr. David Clemans, seated, receives the "Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award" from Roger Alexander, outgoing Uptown Civitan Club president. This was the first award presented by the Uptown Civitans and was given during the club's installation dinner.

Local Civitans Honor Dr. David C. Clemans

Handicapped artist wins city's salute



A 30-year-old Oklahoma City artist, internationally known for his graphics and watercolors, was today named outstanding Oklahoma City handicapped citizen for this year.

The award was presented to Greg Burns by Mayor Patience Latting and members of the mayor's committee on the handicapped at today's city council meeting.

Burns, who was born with Arthrogrytosis, a muscle and joint disorder, entered his first art shows in 1961. To paint, he holds a brush in his teeth.

A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Burns operates a studio gallery and gift shop.

Other awards given by the mayor's committee went to Dayton Tire Co., Boulevard Cafeteria and station KTVY for employment of handicapped persons.

Special service awards were given to state Sen. John McCune, and Mrs. Loraine Wolf, both of Oklahoma City, for their work with the handicapped.

Mayor Latting was surprised with a special award presented to her on behalf of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped for her work in that area.

OCCD IS YOUR ORGANIZATION!

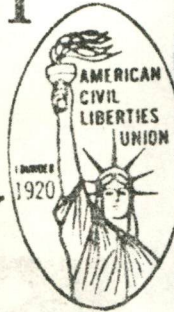
Payment of your \$10.00 yearly dues enables OCCD to grow and reach more persons. Your membership entitles you to voting rights, issues of the Newsletter and participation in OCCD projects and activities.

Mail dues to:

Dan Lindsey
OCCD Treasurer
Box 77
Vinita, OK. 74301

Loraine Wolf is interpreter for OCCD meetings and activities.

OCCD, ACLU FILE COMPLAINT AGAINST ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY



ACLU's Tulsa Legal Panel is assisting The Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities (OCCD) in asking for a federal review of Oral Roberts University, claiming the school discriminates against the physically handicapped.

In a complaint sent to HEW on September 22, OCCD submitted 71 pages of documentation resulting from two years of investigation and efforts to negotiate with ORU officials to eliminate architectural, educational and employment barriers which deny access to people with physical disabilities.

In announcing the action, OCCD President Mike Phillips said:

"We take this action only after a long series of futile attempts to negotiate this matter with university officials. We take this action without anger. We believe O.R.U. to be a fine university. We are sure that the vast majority of its faculty and students are totally unaware of this problem. We take this action in the belief that it will make O.R.U. a better university in the future. Disabled people have a great deal to offer - their strength of purpose, their resourcefulness, their courage - qualities which every university should try to foster in its students. And finally, we take this action because it is inevitable. The day when handicapped persons can be shunted aside is at an end. Handicapped persons have a new pride in themselves, a new sense of their own worth as human beings. The emergence of the handicapped as full members of society

will be one of the great stories of this decade. The liberation of disabled people is an idea whose time has come, and there is no force on earth which can stop it from happening."

The Complaint covers the following areas:

Construction of Facilities

The main classroom building and library at the university was constructed with Federal financial assistance in 1965. Currently a massive addition to this building is under construction. It appears that this addition, as well as the existing building will not be fully accessible to the handicapped. Specifically, no primary entrance will be accessible and usable by the handicapped, and large sections in the half floor areas of the building will be inaccessible.

The university constructed a dormitory (the Twin Towers) in 1972 with Federal financial assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This building is subject to the provisions of Public Law 90-480, 42 U.S.C. 4151 et. seq. The building is not accessible to the handicapped as required by law. Specifically, no primary entrance is accessible and usable by the handicapped.

Since July 2, 1973 the building code of the City of Tulsa has required that all buildings, except single family dwellings, be built accessible to and functional for the physically handicapped. From our investigation we believe that Oral Roberts University has neglected major provisions of the above codes in numerous facilities constructed since 1973. We are currently making efforts through the Protective Inspections Department of the City of Tulsa to have these code provisions enforced.

The Architectural Barriers Committee of the Mayor's Commission on the Employment of the Handicapped on or about March 21, 1977, filed an appeal with the Tulsa City Commission. The appeal concerned a request for an exception to the handicapped provisions of the building code made by the Oral Roberts Association, a parent organization of the university. The appeal of the Architectural Barriers Committee was upheld, and the Oral Roberts Association was ordered to comply with the literal requirements of the building code.

Admission

Documents include correspondence wherein admission has been denied to a Quadriplegic who was refused admission in 1968 and later graduated from the University of Tulsa in 1972; a polio victim confined to a wheelchair or walker who was denied admission in 1972 and again in 1974--she attend Polk Community College and the University of South Florida; an activist for handicapped rights who has no vision in her right eye, a slight scoliosis of the spine and is slightly over-weight--she was denied admission to ORU in 1975, attended the University of South Florida and is currently attending graduate school at Southern Methodist University; a muscular dystrophy victim who is confined to crutches but has a strong upper torso and is very physically active who was denied admission in 1976.

Excerpts from letters from the University explaining denial of admission are shocking to anyone who believes in equal opportunity:

(4/23/74) "...As you know, we have no special facilities for handicapped students. The distances between buildings and the extensive use of stairs make ORU basically a walking campus. Ramp and elevator service for handicapped students is not available. We realize this is a design fault, and this fault is being corrected where feasible. Unfortunately, at this time we could not meet your needs as a student at ORU."

(10/7/75) "We have established standards in academics, *physical well-being*, moral and spiritual attitudes, and others. A person not meeting these standards is no less a person than someone who does; rather it's an indication that he probably would fit better into the pattern of life at some other school. I believe God has a special place for you. While it may not now be ORU, don't let anything hinder your finding that place. Perhaps another college or university is in God's plan. Seek his will, and be open to receive the opportunities He provides."

(10/24/75) "...we have a life style at ORU that God commanded me to have. I have no choice but to obey him. I know it is not easy for people to understand why, but that's just the way it is.

(8/10/76) "Trite as it may sound, we do not feel ORU is equipped to meet the specific needs that your attendance at the University would create."

(7/7/77) "We want to congratulate you on your weight loss this past year from 215 pounds in January to 205 pounds in February 1977...to be readmitted for the fall semester your weight must be *at or below* 198 pounds. To continue as a student, you will need to lose 1 pound per week until you reach your goal..."

Employment

Documentation lists a person who had polio and uses crutches or a wheelchair and was discouraged from a faculty position in 1976; and a spastic paralysis victim who was denied a clerical position in 1967. Investigation is continuing which is believed will indicate a pattern of not employing handicapped persons.

Compliance with Regulations Implementing Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

As of September 8, 1977, no statement of nondiscrimination appeared in the ORU catalog as required by regulation. No notice has been given of the designation of a responsible university official to coordinate 504 compliance activities as required by regulation.

OCCD and ACLU of Oklahoma are still investigating discriminatory practices at ORU and are hopeful that the Department of Housing, Education and Welfare will proceed quickly with a review and compliance hearing.

CONTEST RULES

To participate, students are asked to investigate and write on the theme "Awakening of the New Minority". Recent implementation of federal laws have brought increased awareness to the lack of educational opportunities, vocational training and employment of our handicapped citizens. The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals held in May of 1977, helped bring to light many areas of discrimination, demeaning practices and injustices that have afflicted the handicapped. This investigation will help you understand the many problems facing our handicapped citizen and will acquaint you with the facts needed to write a brief report on

TITLE - "AWAKENING OF THE NEW MINORITY"

ELIGIBILITY - Eleventh and twelfth-grade students in all public, private and parochial high schools in Oklahoma.

DATE - September 1, 1977 to December 23, 1977. Entries must be postmarked no later than December 23, 1977. No entries will be returned. Winners will be announced about March 1, 1978.

INSTRUCTIONS - Your paper must not exceed three 8½ x 11 pages (Excluding Cover Page), written in English, typed double spaced on white paper. Student's name, age, home address, school address, teacher's and principal's names must be typed on the stapled cover sheet only. The report must be original in all respects. Short quotes may be included if exact source is given in a footnote reference. All footnotes must be placed at the bottom of the page to which they refer. The student's and teacher's signature on the cover sheet attest to the originality of the composition.

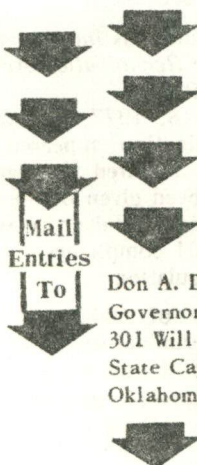
RESEARCH MATERIAL - In requesting research material from this office, student should send name of school, teacher, number of students participating, and grade of students. (Material sent to teachers only).

JUDGING STANDARDS - As a guide for judges, it is suggested that major credit be given for significance of content, evidence of research, originality, impact, organization, clarity of expression and neatness.

INFORMATION SOURCES - Oklahoma State Employment Service. . . Vocational Rehabilitation. . . Goodwill Industries. . . Veterans Administration. . . Federal, State, and City agencies. . . Firms employing the handicapped. . . public and school libraries.

This publication, issued by the Governor's Committee on the Handicapped, as authorized by 40 O.S. 1971 X 301. 16,000 copies have been printed for distribution at a cost of \$473.71.

"STATE FIRST PLACE WINNER"
WILL COMPLETE IN THE NATIONAL CONTEST"
(Sponsored by The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped)
First Prize . . \$1,500 Second Prize . . \$900 Third Prize . . \$600
Fourth Prize . . \$450 Fifth Prize . . \$300
(Prizes furnished by Disabled American Veterans)



Don A. Davis, Executive Secretary
Governor's Committee on the Handicapped
301 Will Rogers Memorial Office Building
State Capitol Complex
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

what do you know about

mental health and mental illness?

Mental Health is the ability to feel comfortable about yourself, feel right about other people, and meet the demands of life.

A mentally healthy person neither under-estimates nor over-estimates his abilities and feels able to deal with most situations that come his way.

A mentally healthy person is able to give love and to consider the interests of others, and feels a sense of responsibility to his neighbors and fellow men.

An illness occurs when a part of the body, or the entire system, performs in a way which is not normal.

Mental illness can be described as abnormal behavior. It may also be thought of as unrealistic behavior--out of line with things as they really are.

True or False

Anyone can have actions which are a form of mental illness.

TRUE. One in every 10 Americans is suffering from a mental or emotional disorder requiring psychiatric treatment.



what is mental health?*

Emotional health and mental health are the same. Everyone has emotions and values, but normal, neurotic, and psychotic people all react differently to them. The neurotic person observes life, not as it is, but as he would like it, or fears it, to be. The psychotic person has lost touch with the real world and has moved partially or entirely into a world of his own with strange ideas and fantasies. Emotions, like automobiles, can carry us forward or destroy us. (Displaying neurotic symptoms occasionally does not mean you are neurotic! All normal people display some neurotic behavior.)

where do you fit in the picture?

These emotions and values are some we all hold in varying degrees. Do you see yourself here?

LOVE

Normal--Normal people want to be loved. They want to be able to give and receive love in a mature fashion. But they are able to accept the fact that love is a "giving" rather than a "holding" emotion.

Neurotic--The person who must be reassured at inappropriate times of another's love suffers neurotic fears of insecurity and unworthiness.

*This leaflet is a digest of materials in the mental health exhibit at the Dallas Health and Science Museum.

A booklet "How To Deal With Your Tensions" is available from the Oklahoma Association for Mental Health, 3113 Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

NO-HO NEWS

ENID NEWS

We had our Third Annual Picnic July 21 attended by 73 people, 15 of whom came from the Ponca City Handicapped Club. Everyone had a good time. Aug. 13th meeting had 44 present. Entertainment was provided by the Singspirations of Helena, Ok., refreshments by Chisholm FHA girls.

At Sept. 15th meeting, 35 were present, refreshments and entertainment by Chisholm FHA girls. Oct. 20th meeting had 41 present, speaker Jim Rezler speaking on A/B elimination being done at Phillips Univ. and a program that P.U. is considering for the handicapped. Refreshments by Enid FHA girls.

Nov. meeting will Thurs., the 17th. Speaker will be Dewayne Lewis with ONG at Hoover Bldg. 7PM. NO-HO has set their Xmas party for Thurs., Dec. 8th, 7PM at the Hoover Bldg., Enid, Ok. Anyone is welcome to come.

CALERA-DURANT

OCCD participated in the Bryan County Fair last September. Our booth display was centered around our blind members this year; but we also had three year old Julie Rice, representing Spina Bifida, display her different leg braces. We gained two new members and a money donation through our efforts.

From October 14 through November 10, a membership drive will be carried on. We hope to enlarge our group so we can share our organization with others.

The December meeting will be held in the home of Karol Caldwell. A buffet dinner will be served and socializing will be the only thing on the agenda!

Karol Caldwell, PRES
SOCCD

SOUTHEASTERN OCCD
Calera-Durant
Area

INVITES YOU TO THEIR
MONTHLY MEETINGS....

2nd Thursday at
7:00 P.M.

Place: Campfire
Girls' Lodge
Durant, OK

For further info - call
405-434-5141

Attorneys for Hardesty Co. have appealed the handicapped section of the Tulsa Building code. They believe there are not enough handicapped people in Tulsa to warrant building every one in twenty-five apartments with accessible features. They also contend that handicapped people are not asking for these apartments and they are not marketable to others.

An investigation is currently being conducted to see if there should be a change in the code. Anyone interested in apartment accessibility or having information concerning this matter, please contact Joe Fallin at 252-7765.

KWTV HOSTS OCCD ON DIMENSION 9

Mike Phillips, Joe Fallin and Judy Phillips were guests of Pam Olsen Oct. 15 on her 30 min. public affairs program. Topics discussed were the formation of OCCD, public education of the concerns of the handicapped, and the new laws for the handicapped.

MANY THANKS TO PAM FOR HER CONTINUED INTEREST.

ELECTIONS HELD

On Sept. 16th, WIN had the best attended membership meeting of the past 5 years.

40 people attended the meeting--many were deaf, some parents of handicapped children and interested ABs. The attendance was definitely a coalition in the truest sense of the word.

Elections were held:

NOHO of Enid was host to the OCCD board meeting August 6th. The board met in conjunction with the Bi-annual OAD convention.

President Mike Phillips gave a short speech in sign language to a joint session of the two organizations after which Dr. Ted Griffing informed the group that the Oklahoma Association of the Deaf had joined the OCCD as an associate and that 41 deaf individuals had become members.

Mike and Judy Phillips were guests at the OAD banquet that evening. They report that it was truly a memorable experience.

Some OCCD issues discussed were: ORU resolution, Sulphur School for the Deaf, letter from Dr. Rainier concerning deaf student not being certified after completion of life saving course,

Why don't you join OCCD?
See page 2 of Newsletter.

NORTHWEST OKLAHOMA HANDICAP ORGANIZATION invites you to their monthly meetings the Third Thurs. of each month at 7PM, Hoover Bldg., Enid, Ok. For more information, call Wayne Evanson, 405-234-1254. (No Dec. meeting, Xmas party, instead - but same place, same time.)

BARTLESVILLE NEWS

On October 7 the Bartlesville Mayor's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped sponsored their annual banquet which was attended by members of the Mayor's Committee and of the Bartlesville Club of the Physically Handicapped. Mrs. Joan Wilson, who is a post polio patient, was selected as handicapped citizen of the year. Mr. Mike Phillips, president of the OCCD, was the principal speaker. Mike gave a very inspiring talk about improvement of the handicapped for their own betterment. There were approximately eighty people in attendance. The meeting was held in the Jane Phillips Building of the Medical Center.

A gospel sing was recently sponsored. Proceeds went to the club's educational fund. We now have four young people from our club who are attending college. The latest is Carolyn Adams, post polio patient who walks with crutches. She attended the State Organizational Meeting of OCCD. Carolyn has joined the Texas State Guards and attends drills for this. For any who would be interested in corresponding with Carolyn her address is: Miss Carolyn Adams, Smith Hall, Room 223, Sam Houston Station, Huntsville, Texas 74113.

Our new president is Mrs. Dorothy Hamilton. We are looking forward to an eventful year.

NORMAN NEWS

Norman, quiet as it may seem, is the place of several new programs that may be of interest to many of you. First of all there is a documentary in the cooking. The Oklahoma Humanities Committee has agreed to fund a research phase that will lead to the script writing phase of a documentary about handicapped adults and their roles in the humanities both in past and future. The goal is to produce a film that will hit publicity and be an educational tool for the future.

Another exciting happening in Norman is a grant being written by the Women's Resources Center that is a crime prevention grant and they have offered to provide a service for the handicapped if we support their program. The service will be to provide transportation at night to dangerous areas of Norman during the evening hours. Although the service is limited it will provide some rides to places like the University and the hospital, which, in Norman, is a great service.

The OU wheelchair basketball team has agreed to work with us on fund raising public relation basketball games. The team's name is The Spokesmen, and we hope that we can all work together to raise some awareness in this area.

COCCD AREA NEWS

OCCD has been changed to COCCD Central Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities.

elected officers and our By-Laws have been passed.

Helen Kutz and Gail Dunsky are continuing to work with the Okla. Humanities Counsel on making a documentary. If you have input please contact Helen or Gail. Addresses are on last page.

In view of the recent OCCD-ORU issue, COCCD is contacting colleges and universities in their area. They are offering to do architectural barrier surveys, and meet with officials to discuss admission policies.

Kay Baker and Dale Pierce are still active in trying to work out the details of the special signs to mark special crossings for Blind and Handicapped in congested traffic areas such as medical complexes, 23rd & Classen, League for the Blind.

Harriet Meril volunteered to head a committee on researching the possibility of an independent living area with assistant care aid provided. For further information contact:

Harriet Meril
1411 N.W. 42nd
OKC, OK. 73108

Judy Pool is arranging for a sign course for OCCD members and other interested parties. For information contact Judy Pool: 424-5818, Ext. 288.

We regret to inform you that Jim Dennis resigned his position as Director of the Okla. Commission on the Deaf & Hear-

ing impaired.

However, we hope he will continue to share his experience.

The December meeting will be a Christmas Party. Bring yourself and special refreshments if desired.

Our speaker for the January meeting will be Mr. George Lewis, Architect for H.B.T.

REMEMBER! OUR MEETINGS ARE ALWAYS THE SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH.

Don't forget to come this Mon, to hear Bob Howard, of Video #1 of OKC, address COCCD on Nov 14, @ St. Anthony's Hosp @ seven PM, in the St. Francis Rm. Mr. Howard will speak on his current film series about Handicapped people and show film footage.

YELLOW CAB

• **HANDI-VAN** •

**Specializing In Transportation For
The Handicapped and Elderly.**

236-5551

CONVENTION OF OK. ASS'N OF THE DEAF

The Wheatland Club of the Deaf, Enid, hosted the 29th biennial convention of the Oklahoma Association of the Deaf August 4-7. Over 225 registered for the occasion which was most successful and enjoyable. We had old timers coming to us from California, Texas, Nevada, Kansas, Maryland, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Ohio, and Mississippi.

Convention highlights were: 1. the OAD voted to become an associate member of the Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, Oklahoma Chapter, with 41 OAD members signing up to help; 2. A resolution was passed and sent to Mr. Lloyd Rader, director of the Welfare Department, in which we asked that an advisory board be created for OSD, to be composed of two deaf parents, two hearing ones, a member of the Governor's Commission on Deafness, and a member of the Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities. (This resolution was mailed to him August 11, and to this date, October 3, Mr. Rader has not done us the courtesy of replying); 3. An awareness of what the deaf face in this state and a greater interest on the part of many of our members, especially the young ones, who heretofore have been content to just sit back and watch; 4. a vote to increase dues from one convention to another, from \$8.00 to \$10.00; 5. Repeal of the section in the by-laws which awarded the host club a third of all convention profits; 6. The Guy Calames of Norman being offered for honorary membership; 7. More hearing friends at the convention; 8. That excellent entertainment staged by Rev. Mr. Jack Earwood and his helpers at the reception and at the banquet; 9. All of those flying fingers and waving arms in the lobby; 10. The jibs and the banter at meals together, and 11. Officers elected to guide the OAD from 1977 to 1979.

President: Fred Watterson
151 S. 168th E. Avenue
Tulsa, Ok. 74108

Wanda Hull was elected to represent the O.A.D. at the 1978 Nat'l Assoc. of the Deaf Convention in Rochester, N.Y. with Martin Shipman serving as alternate. Host city for 1979 is Oklahoma City.

Free Spine Curvature Screenings Offered

As a special service during the Oklahoma Society for Crippled Children's fall membership drive free scoliosis screening is being offered on a statewide basis. Parents of 9 to 15 year olds are urged to take advantage of this disability prevention program during October and November.

First notice of the free statewide spine curvature screening service was included in the Society's 52nd annual report mailed in September to about 80,000 OSCC members and volunteers throughout the state. Also enclosed was a special information sheet outlining five visual check points

for the use of parents to determine if members of their own families might have indications of scoliosis or lateral spine curvatures.

Any resident of Oklahoma may obtain a copy of the scoliosis information check sheet or make arrangements for the Society's registered physical therapist to screen youngsters by contacting the Society's OSCC headquarters at 2100 N.W. 63rd Street in Oklahoma City, 73116, or by telephoning the office at (405) 848-7604. Scheduling will be contingent upon other Society commitments.

OSCC To Screen Putnam City Kindergarteners

For the fourth consecutive year the Society is providing vision, speech and hearing screening for the entire kindergarten class of the Putnam City schools. Ralph Downs, deputy superintendent, and Mrs. Marion Thornhill, director of special services, are coordinating details with OSCC staff personnel.

More than 50 volunteers are involved in the

early identification project, with children due to arrive in relay fashion aboard school buses each hour. This year, 1,256 boys and girls will be checked October 5 through 7 and October 10 through 12, with an average of 200 per day being tested.

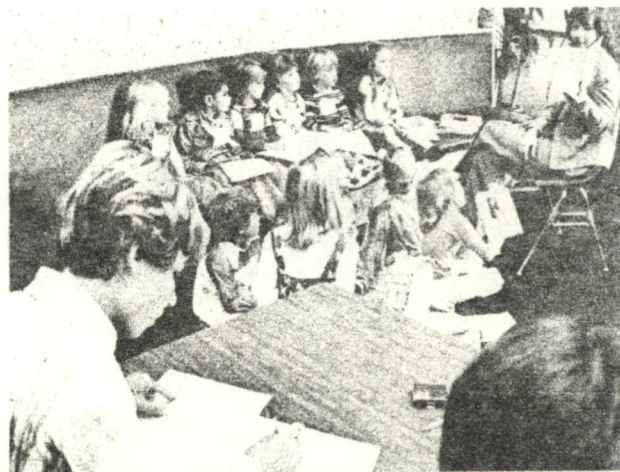
More than 50 public school systems are awaiting similar OSCC early identification programs.

IT'S PAPER WORK for volunteers, but story time for Putnam City boys and girls with visual and hearing disabilities.

NEWSLETTER

THE OKLAHOMA SOCIETY FOR
CRIPPLED CHILDREN, INC.
"T Easter Seal Agency"

"The Easter Seal Agency"
Headquarters & Service
Center: 2100 N.W. 63rd St.
Oklahoma City, Ok 73116



OFB OPENS NEW OFFICE

The Oklahoma Federation of the Blind is pleased to announce the opening of its new office. This has been a long time dream of many OFB members. The new office facilities should enable the Federation to serve more visually handicapped people throughout the State.

The Federation has applied for and received funding for two CETA employees to man the office and help develop and implement programs of benefit to the blind. OFB is, to our knowledge, the first consumer organization of handicapped persons in the nation to receive such a grant. We look upon this as a challenge and as an additional responsibility on our part to ensure the success of the project.

Projects planned for the new facilities will also involve the efforts of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteer work for the blind, or if our office can assist you in any way, phone the OFB office at 232-6672, or write Raythel Jones at the OFB office, 1306 NW 5, Okla. City, OK. 73106.

OCCD of Metropolitan OKC Area

INVITES YOU
To their monthly meetings

2nd Monday of each month
7:30 P.M. ... St. Anthony's
Hospital on 2nd floor, in
St. Francis Room

REFRESHMENTS -- PAID FOR FREE
If you use Saint's Garage

COMPLIMENTS OF WIN

Tulsa Area Chapter
of OCCD

For more
information:

Call: 747-6691

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! November 19th is the next OCCD Board Meeting. These are open meetings. Make OCCD your organization - come and give your ideas. From 10AM till 3PM at 815 S. Utica, off 1244 - Tulsa's Foundation for the Physically Limited.

~~"RECENT OFB RESOLUTIONS"~~

Whereas, the Oklahoma Federation of the Blind is an active member of the Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities; and,

Whereas, after considerable fruitless attempts to negotiate, the Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities filed a complaint with the Department of Education and Welfare against Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Oklahoma, alleging discrimination by the university against otherwise qualified handicapped persons in admissions, employment and construction of buildings; and,

Whereas, the allegations, if true, constitute a clear violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and,

Whereas, the case presented by the Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities is well documented and thoroughly researched; and,

Whereas, the Oklahoma Federation of the Blind is dedicated to promoting the rights of handicapped persons in general, and blind persons in particular;

Therefore be it resolved by the Oklahoma Federation of the Blind in convention assembled in Oklahoma City on October 16, 1977 that the Oklahoma Federation of the Blind fully support the Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in its attempts to bring Oral Roberts University into compliance with existing federal law pertaining to the civil rights of handicapped persons;

Be it further resolved that the President of the Oklahoma Federation of the Blind be instructed to convey the sense of this resolution together with a copy of the same to any and all persons and organizations he deems necessary and appropriate.

Resolution 77-01: OCCD Support
Adopted: October 16, 1977

Membership Report of OCCF as of October 18, 1977:
88 Active Member
41 Assoc. Member

This issue OCCF thanks Dr. [redacted] reporter, Mrs. [redacted] typist, and C. [redacted] - OCCD's "girl Friday"

OFB Resolutions Continued

Whereas, on September 22, 1977, the Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities filed a complaint with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare against Oral Roberts University alleging discrimination against otherwise qualified handicapped persons in its programs and facilities; and,

Whereas, the Oklahoma Federation of the Blind is a member of the Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities; and,

Whereas, Pam Olson, co-anchor person for KWTv news in Oklahoma City, devoted considerable time and effort toward investigating the allegation contained in the complaint; and,

Whereas, her coverage of the events surrounding the filing of this complaint was both thorough and fair, and,

Whereas her coverage called attention to the problems facing handicapped persons in education and employment;

Therefore be it resolved by the Oklahoma Federation of the Blind in convention assembled in Oklahoma City on October 16, 1977, that the Oklahoma Federation of the Blind commends Pam Olson, KWTv news, CBS, and the FCC for their sensitive coverage of the events surrounding the filing of the complaint against Oral Roberts University, and urges continued coverage of the problems facing handicapped persons; and

Be it further resolved that the President of the organization convey the sense of this resolution together with a copy of the same to Pam Olson, KWTv news, CBS, and the FCC.

Resolution 77-02: Pam Olson
Adopted: October 16, 1977

AMERICAN SERVICE RENTAL
3921 SE Frank Phillips
Bartlesville, Ok 74003

This organization sells & rents
wheel chairs, patient lifts,
exercisers, etc. for the use
of the handicapped.

Activity Center to Aid Elderly and Preschoolers

The new Activity Center will be used both by senior adults who are blind and visually handicapped preschoolers.

To be elderly can be difficult, but adding blindness can make life almost unbearable. Recognizing that something had to be done for older blind people, the League is developing an Activity Center to provide for their social activities. Here they can meet to learn games using brailled cards, chessmen, checkers and dominoes. The Center will also offer educational events and entertainment along with plenty of opportunity for making friends and pleasant conversation.

Preschoolers will come to the Activity Center with their parents where they will learn to interact with each other while their parents will be taught how to deal with their handicapped children. Most of these people have no contact with blindness and are at a loss in coping with early training needed for their children to adjust to lack of sight.

For further info. contact: League for the Blind, 501 N. Douglas, OKC, 73106, 232-4644.

Compliments Of:

OKLAHOMA
ASSOCIATION
OF THE
DEAF

for info:

Dr. Griffing
Box 395
Sulphur, OK
73086

★ JOIN OKLAHOMA COALITION OF CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES ★

Welfare — No.1 local bill

County governments last year spent \$18.40 out of every \$100 on public welfare, more than on any other local service including schools. — more in fact than was spent on hospitals, police and fire protection, parks and recreation and libraries combined, the U.S. Census Bureau said.

WANT ADS

we like advertisements

Classified ads are \$2.00.

Display rates are:

\$10.00 Business Card Size;

\$25 for 1/2 p.;

\$50 for full page.

Yearly rate pay for 3 issues, and 4th insertion is 1/2 price.

Subscription cost is \$3.00 per year. Members of OCCD receive newsletter free.

Now's the time to mail your state dues to:

Dan Lindsey

Treasurer OCCD

Box 77

Vinita, OK. 74301

Do you have a helpful hint, medical innovation, or a useful suggestion to share with OCCD readers?

Send your item to Maureen Butler, 5368 E. 30th, Tulsa, 74114, or OKC (405)946-5263.

COMPLIMENTS
OF
BARTLESVILLE
CLUB
of the
PHYSICALLY
HANDICAPPED

for info:
Robert Hamilton,
634 E. 16th
Bartlesville 4003
or 918-333-200

COFFEE CREEK RIDING CENTER
Riding for the Handicapped
R.R. 1, Box 33 Edmond, OK.
1-405-799-8073 73044

As a bedfast MS patient,
I need someone to work
one 24-hr. day on the
weekend and from 6 PM to
7AM one nite a week to
provide relief to my other
helping friend. Call
Lynn 405-848-5818

Notice: COOD is compiling a comprehensive Directory/hand book about all services and resources for all disabilities. If you have a listing or infor. on people agencies, groups, clubs, etc, please send to: Harriett Merrill, 1144 NW 42, OKC, 73116. Please help!

things

November morning

A misted morning — no more walks in sun through fall's gold-rustling leaves upon the road. I hear the train; it hurries to the city. A plane above the clouds proclaims its way to goal and purpose: offices and shops, classrooms — here people buy and sell, and take and give the seeds of summer —

Now the woods are still.

A pheasant rests under the golden birch and rises, crying; still the thyme in bloom. the apples have been picked; the milkweed pods are scattering silken seeds over the meadow. It is quite still — a flit of chickadees — a rabbit in the brambles (Oh, the berries! and summer suppers sweetened).

Suddenly
the mockingbirds sing spring
in autumn meadow.

Herta Rosenblatt

Bye-Bye Decubiti

Paraplegics who have been plagued for years with decubitus ulcers have ceased to worry about them entirely, although they are sitting up as long as they desire each day. Hospital air mattresses now available for extra protection against bed sores.

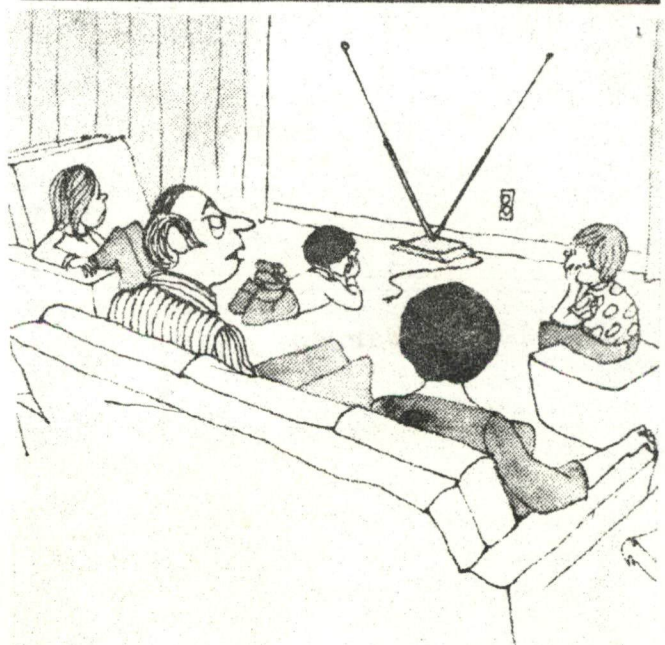
Order Yours Now! Satisfaction Guaranteed!

MS	Mattress MS 76" x 36" x 3"	\$225.00
MC	Mattress MC 80" x 36" x 4"	\$225.00
	Extra Pads (both sizes)	\$ 17.50
MA	Model MA 13 1/2 x 14 1/2 x 3	\$18.50
MB	Model MB 14 1/2 x 16 x 3	\$19.00
MC	Model MC 15 1/2 x 18 x 3 1/2	\$19.50
MD	Model MD 16 x 18 x 3 1/2	\$20.00
WE	Model WE 15 1/2 x 16 x 3	\$19.00
WL	Model WL 17 1/2 x 17 1/2 x 4	\$20.00
SL	Slip-on covers (all sizes)	\$ 5.00

(Postage paid in U.S.A.)

Ken McRight Supplies, Inc.
7456 South Oswego Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136

Do you need an answer from Dr. Poarch? For help write: The Question Corner
Dr. John E. Poarch
6701 N. Broadway-Suite 404
Okla. City, Ok 73116
405-840-3793



"Let's face it. Until the TV returns from the repair shop, we only have each other."

The Christian Science Monitor

OCCD, 6100 N. Warren, OKC 73112 - 405-946-5263

Ponca City, Mildred Perkins, 329 S. Birch, Ponca
City, 74601 - 405-762-1308

Lawton-Ft. Sill, PATH, 6526 McGlacklin Ave.,
Ft. Sill, 73503 - 405-357-2675 Jim McNorthy

Ada, Steven Stokes, Box 5-77, c/o East Central State
University, Ada 74820

Geary & Central West OK., Virginia Moore, 120 W. Main,
Geary, 73040

Enid, Wayne Evanson, 196 High Point, Enid, 73701
405-234-1254

Calera-Durant, Karol Caldwell, Route 1, Box 254-C,
Calera 74730

Norman, Gail Dunskey, 1616 Alameda, C-3, Norman,
405-321-4830 (Office) or Helen Kutz, 333 E. Brooks,
Norman 73609, 405-321-6928

Nstylrdbillr, Dorothy Hamilton, 534 E. 16th, Bartlesville,
74003

Tulsa - WIN, Gwens Templeman, c/o 2223 E. 54, Tulsa,
74105 (918) 747-6691

Treasurer, Dan Lindsey, Box 17, Vinita, 74301



OCCD, 6100 N. Warren

D. E. Frieden
6138 E. 53
Tulsa, OK 74102

