Originally Processed With FOIA(s): S

FOIA Number: S

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.

Record Group/Collection: Donated Historical Materials
Collection/Office of Origin: Frieden, Lex, Collection
Series: Printed Materials
Subseries: Periodicals

OA/ID Number: 52131
Folder ID Number: 52131-007

Folder Title:
"Mainstream: Magazine of the Able-Disabled - March 1998"

Stack: **Row:** **Section:** **Shelf:** **Position:**



Speech Recognition • Naming David

MAINSTREAM

MAGAZINE OF THE ABLE-DISABLED

March 1998
$4.00

Lex,
Thank you.
You empowered me.
I love you.
Lead on.
Justin



Justin Dart, Jr.

Soldier for Empowerment

Mr. Lex Frieden
Senior Vice President
TIRR
1333 Moursund
Houston, TX 77030

See Page 32

WorkLink®

Talk to your Computer!

Dragon NaturallySpeaking

Today's most powerful speech product, is now on sale through May, 1998:



Preferred Edition	**$169.00**
Deluxe Edition	**$695.00**
(With educational discount	**$347.50)**

NaturallySpeaking is ideal for business, personal and professional environments. Speak at a conversational pace and your spoken words are transcribed immediately onto your computer screen, and into your document.

WorkLink - A. D. A. Solutions

2556A Telegraph Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704

1-800-732-0522

Our products include: Ergonomic keyboards, mouses and pointers, custom design and mounting of computer laptops on wheelchairs, and products by DragonDictate, Lexmark, Perfectouch, Pace, Datalux, Kinesis, Kensington, Logitech, ProAgio and many more.

We accept all major credit cards, purchase orders, checks and cash.

www.worklink.net

MAINSTREAM

MAGAZINE OF THE ABLE-DISABLED

Volume 22, Number 6 March 1998

Special Section

EMPOWERMENT: The Testament of Justin Dart, Jr. . . . 17
His is a story of great struggle — both internal and external — in a life-long search for personal truth and empowerment. Based on hours of extensive interviews with Dart, his long-time close friend and collaborator Fred Fay tells Justin Dart's remarkable journey.

An open letter from Justin Dart to the disability community 27

100 People Who Have Empowered Me — Justin Dart . . . 32
I have never done a single successful thing without the help of beautiful, strong, loving people who reached out to empower me — hundreds of them.

Features

DAVID 34
Naming a child can be a tricky thing, even more so when the parents are concerned about pronunciation. That's where Aunt Dinah comes in. ***By Denise Sherer Jacobson***

"...but I *can* see colors..." 36
Coming face to face with stereotypes about blindness, insecurity and schoolmates. ***By Elizabeth Granderson***

True Confessions 38
She's a journalist. She's disabled. But watch out. She doesn't write stories to advance anybody's agenda. ***By Kathi Wolfe***

All Teched Up and No Place to Go 40
No kidding. Comedy writer is ready to write. . .as soon as he sharpens those pencils. . . ***By Paul Ryan***

Speech Recognition 41
Resource Guide: *Manufacturers who provide voice access for computer command and control and text generation. With organizations and conferences featuring speech technology.* ***By the Editors***

Departments

Editorial 6
Letters 7
News and Commentary 9
Classified Ads 45
Calendar 45
William G. Stothers 46

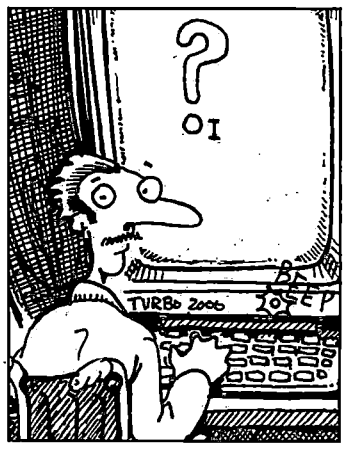
On the Cover:
Justin Dart, Jr.
Photo by Stan Honda



Page 17
Justin Dart, Jr. at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC.



Page 34



Page 40

The Best in Rehab

GRAHAM-FIELD

Everest & Jennings®
A Division of Graham-Field

METRO

High strength, light weight and incredibly versatile. Our best selling, all purpose manual wheelchair.

Kuschall of America

CHAMPION

Ultra lightweight adult and pediatric wheelchairs that enhance mobility and independence.



LaBac SYSTEMS®

POWER SEATING SYSTEM

For your Power Recliner or Power Tilt seating and positioning needs, there is a LaBac solution.

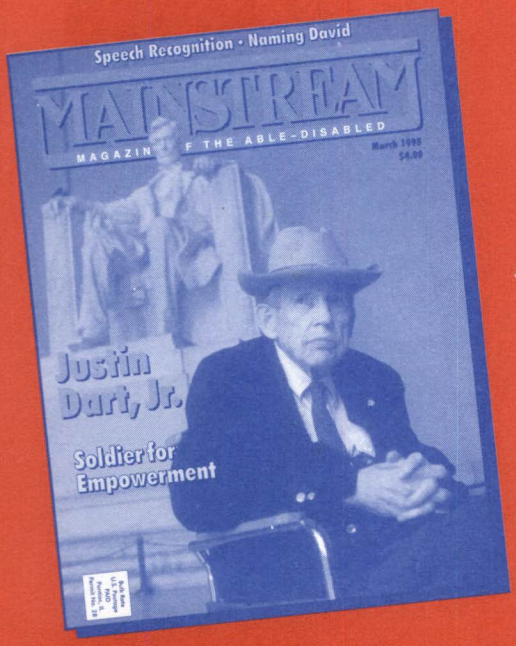
Everest & Jennings®
A Division of Graham-Field

LANCER 2000

Full featured, modular, suspension base power wheelchair.

For more information call Everest & Jennings 800-235-4661;
E&J Canada 800-387-9113; Kuschall 800-654-4768; LaBac 800-445-4402

Everest & Jennings®, LaBac® & Kuschall® are registered trademarks of Graham-Field



One Person Can Make a Difference!

And so can you.

Subscribe to MAINSTREAM and get a full year of the latest news, advocacy and product information.

News you can use to empower yourself and others in your community.

You too can be a Soldier for Empowerment. Arm yourself with MAINSTREAM.

Send in this card today!

YES! Sign me up.



Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of first issue. Canadian orders $44 per year; Other non-U.S. orders $52 per year. ALL non-U.S. orders must be prepaid in U.S. currency. Offer expires 12/31/98.

Send me the next year (10 issues) of MAINSTREAM Magazine for $24. I realize I save 40% and I'll receive my *G.O.Guide II — Great Options for Disability Products and Resources* FREE with my paid order.

❑ 2 years for $44 *(45% off the cover price)* ❑ 1 year for $24 *(40% off the cover price)*

NAME

ADDRESS APT. #

CITY STATE ZIP

( )

PHONE B 9 8 3 1

❑ My payment is enclosed. ❑ Please bill me.

(The G.O. Guide II will be sent when payment is received.)

❑ New Subscription ❑ Renewal

Please indicate format: ❑ Print *or* ❑ ASCII disk

Give a gift to a friend!



Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of first issue. Canadian orders $44 per year; Other non-U.S. orders $52 per year. ALL non-U.S. orders must be prepaid in U.S. currency. Offer expires 12/31/98.

Please send MAINSTREAM Magazine to the person listed below. They'll receive a *G.O. Guide II — Great Options for Disability Products and Resources* FREE with this paid order.

❑ 2 years for $44 *(45% off the cover price)* ❑ 1 year for $24 *(40% off the cover price)*

MAIL TO:

NAME

ADDRESS APT. #

CITY STATE ZIP

BILL TO:

NAME

ADDRESS APT. #

CITY STATE ZIP B 9 8 3 2

❑ My payment is enclosed. ❑ Please bill me.

(The G.O. Guide II will be sent when payment is received.)

Please indicate format: ❑ Print *or* ❑ ASCII disk

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 46 ESCONDIDO CA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

MAINSTREAM
MAGAZINE OF THE ABLE-DISABLED

PO BOX 370598
SAN DIEGO CA 92137-9894

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 46 ESCONDIDO CA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

MAINSTREAM
MAGAZINE OF THE ABLE-DISABLED

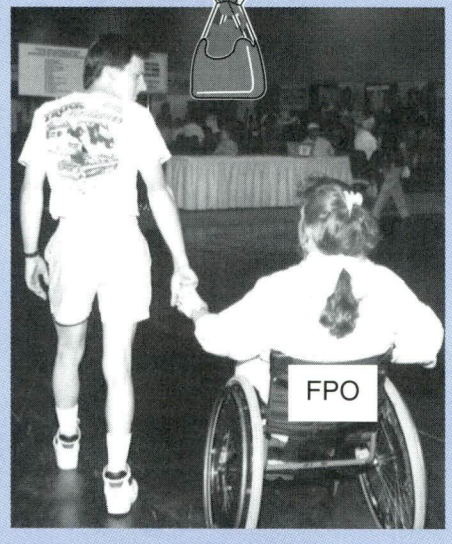
PO BOX 370598
SAN DIEGO CA 92137-9894

Attend The Event That Makes A Difference

98 ABILITIES EXPO®

The #1 Show for People With Disabilities

Admission $5.00 per person. Children under age 12 free.



Chicago
July 31- August 2, 1998
Rosemont Convention Center
Chicago, Illinois

New Jersey
April 24-26, 1998
New Jersey Convention Center
Edison, New Jersey

Washington, DC
September 25-27, 1998
Capital Expo Center
Washington, DC

Anaheim
May 29-31, 1998
Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, California

San Mateo
October 23-25, 1998
San Mateo Expo Center
San Mateo, California

Produced and Managed by:
expocon®
A DIVISION OF ADVANSTAR COMMUNICATIONS

For a free brochure: Tel (800) 385-3085
• www: http://www.expocon.com
• E-mail: abilities@advanstar.com

To exhibit, call (203) 256-4700: Dawn Pratt, ext. 123 or Eric Schnur, ext. 138

FREE ADMISSION COUPON

98 ABILITIES EXPO®

C

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ADMIT ONE

©1998 Expocon, a division of Advanstar Communications



Editorial

Sharing the Glory

To any of you who have read MAINSTREAM for any length of time it comes as no surprise that I hold Justin and Yoshiko Dart in very high esteem.

Their leadership and sacrifices to move the disability agenda forward are a true gift.

About a year ago Justin called me and said he had some things he wanted to share with the community. Would we be interested? And so began a process that took a lot longer than either of us expected.

In the meantime, Justin canceled a world tour due to illness and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on January 15.

I wanted to know what his secret is, how does he empower so many people? What burns inside of him to drive him to work literally night and day for human rights and, more specifically, disability rights?

In 1987 when he was the head of Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), he gave a speech to the Senate, knowing full well that to do so would mean his termination. He went ahead with his testimony because he knew that it was the only way to get the truth about disability services into the congressional record. He put the truth above his career.

At a meeting later that year, Justin talked to disability leaders about what had happened. Everyone was upset about the situation. But Justin said, "Many a good soldier falls in battle and the next soldier comes and picks up his sword and goes forward."

Justin is always making comparisons between disability rights and war.

There are Presidents and would-be Presidents who know Justin doesn't lose many battles, so it is best to be on the side Justin's on. But that is because when you believe your life is on the line, losing is not an option.

A few years ago my heart was heavy with the enormity of what we were engaged in. The ADA backlash was just beginning and I was looking down the road to the tidal wave coming. Justin said, "The disability community has been very successful the last two decades. It is like an army that has taken a great deal of territory, but doesn't have enough soldiers to defend the field. We cannot do it with smoke and mirrors. We have to find more soldiers."

During the battle for health care reform, Justin organized in every state for Real Health Care for All — no more band-aid solutions. At one point Justin called and said that he had decided to terminate his private health care insurance policy. He believed that by paying his insurance premiums he was helping to finance the war against health care reform. "The insurance companies are using my premiums to lobby against us. I will not support them." Just think what would have happened if everyone had followed Justin's example.

He never gives a speech without acknowledging everyone present who has helped him. Maybe this is part of his secret: he shares his glory. When awarded the Medal of Freedom, he immediately went back and put it around Yoshiko's neck. He said that he was accepting the medal on behalf of all of us.

He calls us patriots, soldiers, defenders, comrades and friends. He never ends a speech without saying, "I respect you. I believe in you. I love you."



Cyndi Jones
Publisher

MAINSTREAM
MAGAZINE OF THE ABLE-DISABLED

PUBLISHER
Cyndi Jones
email: publisher@mainstream-mag.com

EDITOR
William G. Stothers
email: editor@mainstream-mag.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING SALES
Edie Shack
email: edie@mainstream-mag.com

ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLISHER
Carol Howg

DIRECTOR OF DESIGN & PRODUCTION
Susie McGowan

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Writers:
Bill Bolt
Mary Lou Breslin
Douglas Lathrop
Fred Pelka
Gene Rothert
Kathi Wolfe

Photographers:
Art Brackley
Stan Honda

Illustrators:
Mike Brown
Ellen Duris
Robin Olimb

MAINSTREAM and **Magazine of the Able-Disabled** are registered trademarks of Exploding Myths, Inc., U. S. Patent Office.

Editorial and Business Offices are located at 2973 Beech Street, San Diego, CA 92102, tel: (619) 234-3138, fax (619) 234-3155, or email at *mainstream@mainstream-mag.com*

Advertising Sales Office is located at 687 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02194, tel: (781) 444-0600, fax: (781) 449-4976, or email at *edie@mainstream-mag.com*

MAINSTREAM *online* with weekly updates at *http://www.mainstream-mag.com*

MAINSTREAM is published 10 times a year by Exploding Myths, Inc. All subscription correspondence should be sent to MAINSTREAM, P.O. Box 370598, San Diego, CA 92137-0598. Subscription rates are $24/1 year; $44/2 years.

MAINSTREAM welcomes manuscripts, photographs and artwork for publication consideration, but assumes no responsibility for them. Any unsolicited materials must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All rights in portions published vest in publisher. Letters to **MAINSTREAM** or its editors are assumed intended for publication in whole or in part and therefore may be used for such purposes.

MAINSTREAM does not guarantee or endorse any products or services reviewed or advertised in this magazine. Readers are urged to investigate products carefully before purchase.

MAINSTREAM is an associate member of The Associated Press.

Reproduction of any portion of this publication without written permission is prohibited.

©1998 Exploding Myths, Inc.
All rights reserved. Printed in U. S. A.

ISSN: 0278-8225

Making change

I love your magazine and read it from cover to cover. I am a Grossmont College student and use a wheelchair. I wanted to take a media communications class, but it is not accessible. All the classes are upstairs. Disabled Services told me to write a letter to the Chancellor. After writing, I received a call from the chancellor's office, saying they would make sure that a class in media communications would be available for me and other disabled students. The important thing to do is find out all the information about what you are dealing with and write letters or call people. I hope this makes people realize the importance of trying to change things that are wrong.

— Nancy Eakin, El Cajon, CA

And then I read ...

I was just thinking that I am so behind in my reading that maybe I would not renew MAINSTREAM.

And then I got the December '97/January '98 issue with its article on Speech to Speech. I had just been discussing that program with another parent and wondered where I had put the info on it.

And then I read Kathi Wolfe on the wine labels and decided to send a copy of it to a wine-drinking friend.

And then I read William G. Stothers and knew I had to have my son read that article (he is 14, has numerous disabilities and is in a regular middle school having a hard time socially).

And then I read the article on the relay system and knew my co-worker who was deaf would love it.

Etc., etc. — so I don't think I will stop renewing. Keep up the good work.

Judith Lerner
via email

Burning rage

In going through some papers relating to my daughter's rehabilitation and education, I discovered anew your magazine and Cyndi Jones' editorial (*"Please would you comply with the law?,"* August '96).

Today my doctor suggested I see my therapist again because I am in a burning rage due to the fact that I have to, for the forty-eleventh time, fight for the right to enroll my child in an educational institution.

Jones' editorial in which she tells her thoughts about the "overnight" compliance of Ace Parking enabled me to overcome the anger and frustration I have been holding in for so long. I was glad my daughter prevailed. Yet I am angry that she had to go through the same experience again to access what she has a right to. After reading Jones' editorial, I realize there is no easy road to compliance. We ARE going to have to sue every business, educational facility and organization in the United States! Like Jones, the thought makes me sad. I wish we could enforce the ADA regulations with prison sentences. Only then will compliance become easier.

We may have to sue and sue and sue until our heart breaks. But if that is what it takes, then that is what I am going to do. I am tired, but I can't quit either.

Gwenna Michie
Murfreesboro, TN

More parking

Regarding the comments on parking (*Letters*, December '97/January '98), I too must voice my opinion on handicapped parking violators. The worst ones are senior citizens at supermarkets. I've learned the hard way not to argue with senior citizens — because they're always right!

They love to park in the large space *between* disabled car spaces, not thinking that a disabled person needs that extra space. I use a walker and I've had a hell of a time trying to get my walker and me into my car.

Fran Piva
Chicago, IL

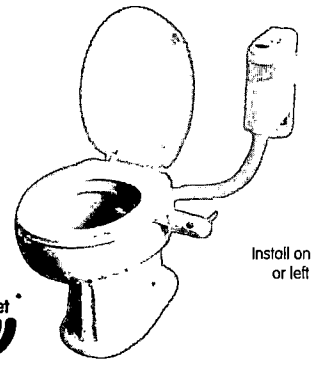
LETTERS!
write to us at:
MAINSTREAM Magazine
2973 Beech Street
San Diego, 92102
fax: (619) 234-3155
email:
editor@mainstream-mag.com

Toilet Attachment
Promotes independence
Makes Life Easier!
Healthier Too!

If you have limited hand or arm strength, this saves the need of asking for assistance. Provide yourself with a natural warm water wash and air dry!

Soothing water wash gives relief for hemmorrhoids, constipation and other discomforts.

National 1st place Winner "Hands Free Cleansing"

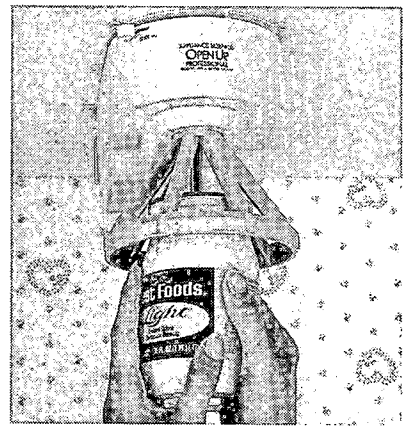


Install on right or left side.

Lubidet

Call or write for FREE flyer
800-582-4338 Fax 303-368-0812
Lubidet 1980 S Quebec St #4 Denver Co 80231-3234
email:info@lubidet.com www.lubidet.com

"I've been looking for something like this!"



Having difficulty with everyday tasks like opening jars, writing, buttoning shirts, turning keys or bending over? Sometimes finding the simplest product can make the biggest difference in your daily life. We have a catalog full of such products. Call us at 800-235-7054 for your FREE catalog.

NCM Consumer Products
PO Box 6070 • San Jose, CA 95150 • 800 235-7054

Move, Glide, Slide, & Lift
So smoothly with
RoMedic's Easy Transfer System



MINISLIDE

Complete System of Manual Transfer Aids For Every Need!

- New Ultra Low Friction (ULF) material eliminates skin shear
- Provides caregiver relief from fatigue and back injury
- Increases user independence



EASYGLIDE

SCAN Medical Co. Inc.
U.S.A. Distributor
"Your partner in independent living"

Call For Free Catalog 888-593-0377
"Swedish Excellence in Transfer Technology"



Ham and Eggs

Cookies and Milk

Some things are just made for each other. For computer access, it's HeadMaster™ Plus and WiViK®. HeadMaster is a headpointing system that gives fast, smooth control of the mouse cursor while WiViK provides easy access to all the keyboard keys and functions. Together, they provide effective computer access for whatever task you have. For more information, call us or visit our web site.

Prentke Romich Company
Sales: 800-262-1933 • General (330) 262-1984
e-mail: info@prentrom.com • www.prentrom.com

VAN RENTALS NATIONWIDE



Now, vacation with total independence with our state of the art, accessible mini-vans.

- Driver-accessible and transportation vans available.
- Delivery and pickup almost anywhere. Fees may vary.
- Free mileage included.
- Daily—weekly—longterm available.
- Our vans are the most user friendly on the road.

Custom interiors with lowered floors offer same-level seating anywhere in the van—even as the driver. Hand controls, steering devices, tie-down system, swivel chairs and automatic ramps. These vans can accommodate up to four wheelchairs plus three passengers plus offer great gas mileage.

Call now for travel independence.



Wheelers
ACCESSIBLE VAN RENTALS

For reservations nationwide:
(800) 456-1371
Franchises available.

TVI

Technologies for the Visually Impaired, Inc.
(U.S. Authorized Distributor of Robotron Pty. Ltd.)

#1 U.S. Distributor of:

Aria Braille Palmtop Computer
Braille input/Speech Output
Perkins-style keyboard with Word Processor, Notepad, Keyboard, Clock, Calender, Communications, Telephone Directory, File Manager and DOS Interface.

Rainbow Stand Alone or PC Controlled Reading Machine
Lightweight, easy to use, reads documents as large as 8.5" x 14" with many special onboard features including DEC-talk Speech.

And announcing the Galileo Reader
Brand-new addition to the Robotron range of reading machines, reads multiple languages, powerful file storage and handling, still with the famous easy-to-use Robotron interface.

Columbus Talking Compass
Winner of the R&D 100 award
Foreign Languages available

Other Products Available
Index, Thiel, GW-Micro, Henter-Joyce, Repro-Tronics and TeleSensory
Customized PCs and much more!

Papenmeier Windots and Braille Displays

Write or call:
ROBOTRON

Technologies for the Visually Impaired, Inc.
John Panarese, Managing Director
9 Nolan Court
Hauppauge, NY 11788
Tel/Fax: 1 (516) 724-4479
Email: TVil@concentric.net

Let Us On The Bus!

The Department of Transportation is to issue regulations for over-the-road transportation services — read Greyhound — by March 15, with the final regs due by this September.

Meanwhile, DREDF (Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund) is seeking people with Greyhound experiences/stories/problems with a view to filing a class action suit against the Bus Line That Won't. (Call DREDF at 510-644-2555)

Last September, members of ADAPT, the hardened veterans of the battle for bus access, made 41 trips on Greyhound in various locations to test accessibility.

ADAPT says the results show that Greyhound, over seven years after the ADA was enacted, has hardly made an effort to meet either the spirit or the letter of the law.

Some findings: Greyhound refused to take 32 percent of the test riders, even though they had already sold tickets to most of them.

Thirty-six percent of those who did ride the buses had to get help from non-employees because employees would not or did not know how to assist. In Reno, Greyhound called 911 to get the rider off the bus.

Greyhound required 29 percent of them to bring their own helper.

Fifty-nine percent of those who rode or attempted to ride were treated rudely (or worse) at the station or by the driver, including remarks like "people like you should not ride the bus" and "we don't know how to handle your kind of people."

Twenty-two percent of the test riders were asked to reschedule their trip for the convenience of Greyhound, rather than when they needed/wanted to travel.

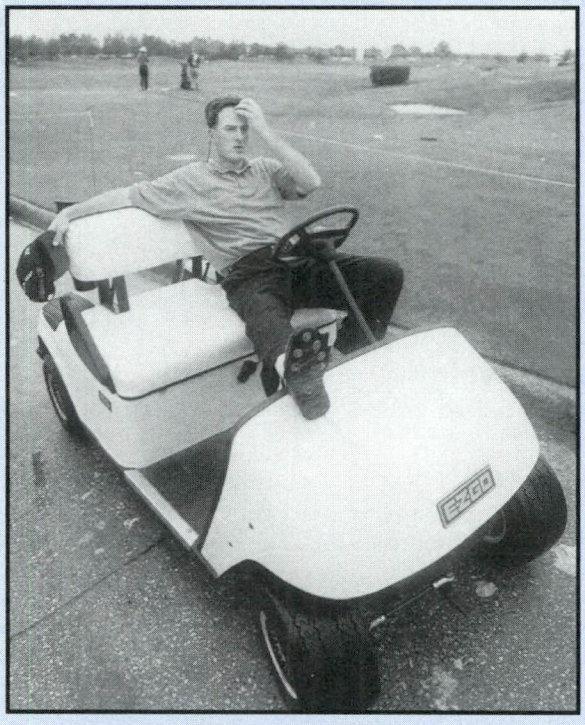
Of the 12 trips which involved rest stops, 58 percent of the test riders were not given help to get off at the rest stops. Restrooms on the bus are not accessible.

Greyhound says it doesn't need lifts to serve people with disabilities and that it complies with the ADA.

Tell DOT that the regs *must* mandate lifts on all new buses.

Write: Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington DC 20590. ➡

Pro golfers' group takes a swing at Casey's cart



There's a book out about golf entitled "A Good Walk Spoiled." It seems as if the Professional Golf Association thinks that's what Casey Martin is doing to the old game.

Martin is a 25-year-old golfer (he roomed with Tiger Woods at Stanford) who happens to have a disability. He doesn't have the vein that runs along the bone in his lower leg. Blood returning to the heart goes through a tangle of veins near the surface. When they get stress, they bleed into his knee, causing pain.

When he uses a golf cart Martin is able to play, and play well. In fact, in January he won a tournament on the Nike Tour, which is just below the top PGA circuit. But he had to get a court order to let him use the cart because the Big Swings at the PGA said no. They say it would be a special advantage for Martin; walking, they claim, is an essential part of the game.

Many golfers on the PGA Tour agree. Says Tiger: "As a friend, I'd love to see him have a cart. But from a playing standpoint, is it an advantage? It could be. If it's 100 degrees in Memphis, does it help to ride?"

Mark Calcavecchia, though, says: "I think he should be allowed to come out here, see what happens, and let it rip."

Other golfers have and have had physical problems: bad backs, bad feet, for example. And they have toughed it out. Mind you, golfers on the so-called Senior Tour are allowed to use carts, although Arnold Palmer says he's against that, too. Go figure.

A judge is going to decide this issue, but Martin won the first round when the judge said the PGA is not exempt from the ADA.

Is a cart a reasonable accommodation under ADA?

Why not let everybody use a golf cart? That would equalize matters. Or maybe Casey Martin could use a handcycle or a wheelchair on the course; then he would have to use energy like walkees.

As for Martin, he says "I can't say I've gone into this trying to carry a banner for the disabled. I just love competing. I love the feeling of a great shot. It's one of those sports that when you're playing it you get so frustrated you swear you're going to quit. Then you wake up the next day and want to go play again."

That sounds like the essence of the disability rights movement to us.

Martin also has been signed up by Nike as a spokesman for its clothing. In an ad, Martin says, "I don't want them to pity me because I limp around. You might as well chase your dreams while you're young before it's too late. I'm not going to let my leg stop me." Nike boss Phil Knight thinks the PGA is wrong on this one. "We believe Casey should be allowed to chase his dreams" in a cart. So do we. ■



Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems in Rolling Meadows is a worldwide leader in smart electronic systems research, design, development and manufacture. With a diverse array of projects and a growing team of talented people, we're continuing the tradition of technological innovation. The opportunity is now at Northrop Grumman. Consider the following:

Software Engineering Opportunities

The following opportunities require a BS in CS/Physics/EE/Math and a minimum of 3 years 'C' programming, software development for real-time multi-tasking/multi-processor, and embedded systems experience. Electronics warfare industry experience a plus.

Software Architects

Initiate design projects and perform requirements analyses, algorithm development and high level design. An advanced technical degree and a minimum 5 years experience in the development of large-scale real-time embedded software systems required. Knowledge of computer hardware architectures, performance simulation, modeling and exposure to knowledge based expert systems and object-oriented programming techniques a plus.

C++, C & ADA Software Developers

Design, implement and test real-time embedded and non-embedded software systems using C, C++ and Ada. Knowledge of modern software design methodologies preferred, however active process and design training activities are available.

Embedded Software Developer

Design, code, test and implement embedded real-time software systems using modern software design methodologies.

Software Test Engineers

Analyze test requirements, develop test documentation, and perform test dry runs. Familiarity with auditing/verifying compliance via SEI/ISO9000 and other industry/military standards essential. 8 years experience in software development with the three most recent years in a significant contributing capacity preferred.

If you want to take your talent to new levels and work on projects that are important, join the professionals at Northrop Grumman ESID. As a part of our team, you will enjoy a competitive salary and benefits package which includes health/major medical/dental/life insurance, 401(k) and pension plans, as well as opportunity for advancement. Excellent relocation package also available. Please send/fax/e-mail (ASCII text only) your resume to: **Northrop Grumman ESID, Dept. M298, 600 Hicks Rd., M/S U3100, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008-1098. FAX: 847/590-3189. E-mail: resumes@eiws.esid.northgrum.com.** U.S. citizenship required for most positions. An equal opportunity employer m/f/d/v. Visit our website at: **www.northgrum.com/recruit**

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

60 Minutos

"60 Minutes" has begun closed-captioning in Spanish, and CBS said it's the first time captions will be offered for a network show in a language other than English.

Most televisions sold since 1993 have a built-in decoder that allows viewers to pick up the captions by using their remote controls.

CBS said the move was a way for the network to assist the more than 27 million Hispanics in the United States, the nation's fastest-growing ethnic group.

Want to travel?

Mobility International USA is seeking people with and without disabilities to apply for a three-week Leadership, Diversity and Disability Rights Exchange in Mexico from June 22 to July 13. Contact MIUSA (541) 343-1284, or on the web at www.miusa.org. ■

Kids charged more

The state of California illegally authorized facilities for the severely retarded to charge fees for in-home "respite care," which allows families time off from the duties of attending to their child or other relative, says a state appeals court.

The ruling by the 3rd District Court of Appeal overturns a $3-an-hour fee charged since 1995 by the North Bay Regional Center in Napa, and a policy announced later that year by the state Department of Developmental Services allowing all 21 regional centers in California to charge similar fees.

About half of the centers' 140,000 clients get some type of respite care, said Christopher Poulos, vice president of the Association for Retarded Citizens-California. He said only the North Bay center has charged fees.

A respite care worker looks after a developmentally disabled person at home for certain periods in a day so that the family can get away for chores, social events and other activities.

The North Bay Regional Center, which serves Napa, Sonoma and Solano counties, started charging $3-an-hour co-payments for respite care in March 1995 to family members of children under 13. Families would be exempted if they could show

that the payments would threaten their ability to keep a child at home.

The Department of Developmental Services announced a similar policy statewide in October 1995, relying on laws passed during a state budget shortage that allowed the regional centers to seek "alternative sources of payment for services."

Quarantine lifted

A settlement filed in U.S. District Court will let visually impaired Hawaii residents — as well as blind visitors to the islands — bypass the quarantine as long as their guide dogs are pre-certified and vaccinated against rabies.

"Now people who are blind or visually impaired, like all Americans, will be able to travel freely and independently to Hawaii for business or pleasure," said Bill Lann Lee, the Justice Department's acting assistant attorney general for civil rights.

Hawaii is the only state with a quarantine for rabies. The state has never had a reported case of the disease, and all dogs and cats entering Hawaii face a quarantine.

Complaints forced the state Board of Agriculture last year to approve a 30-day quarantine for dogs and cats that were certified as vaccinated. The settlement is the result of a 1993 class-action lawsuit that said the quarantine law, as applied to guide dogs, violated the ADA.

Driscoll awards

Ocean Spray Cranberries is accepting applications for the Jean Driscoll Award, with $10,000 to be awarded to women wheelchair athletes.

The award, named after the seven-time winner of the Boston Marathon wheelchair division, is open to women who are seniors in high school or older. Call Ocean Spray at 1-800-662-3263 for an application. ■

Buses targeted

Disabled bus riders in Long Beach and Artesia often find the machinery designed to help them on buses doesn't work or is missing altogether, according to a lawsuit filed in Los Angeles.

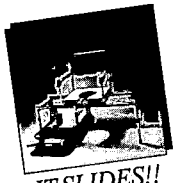
The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, representing five

"Accessibility without renovation"

Tub Slide Shower Chair

This complete bathroom care system is safe, simple, and easier for everyone involved.

Simple as:



IT SLIDES!!

1 
From the bed

2 
over the commode

3 
over the tub for a shower

- No expensive bathroom renovation
- Freedom to travel
- Padded Seat & Back
- Rear casters lock for safe transfers
- No need for several pieces of equipment
- Stainless steel (it will not rust)

R.D. Equipment, Inc.
230 Percival Drive
West Barnstable, MA 02668-1233
Phone/Fax: (508) 362-7498
E-mail: rdequip@capecod.net
HomePage: http://www.capecod.net/rdequip

"Independence"

Electric Leg Bag Emptier

The ORIGINAL in use since 1985



VA Approved

- Small, lightweight, & easy to conceal
- Rugged push button switch
- Simple to install
- Operates using wheelchair batteries
- Increase drinking - reduce urinary tract infections

OPTIONS:
- A battery & charger for use on a manual wheelchair
- A puff switch for use with severe mobility impairments

HEALTH BENEFITS

VISA MasterCard

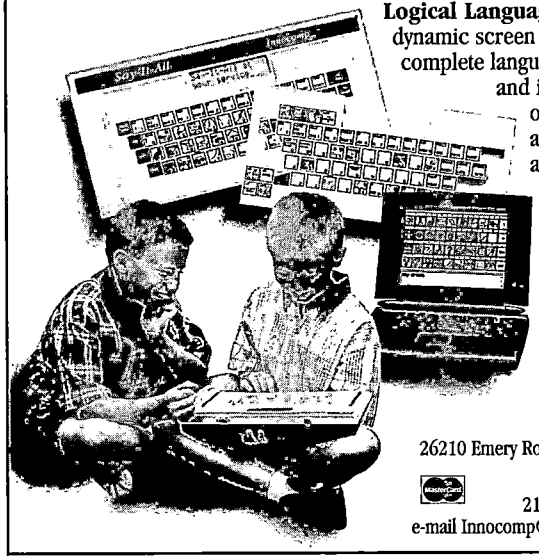
R.D. Equipment, Inc.
230 Percival Drive
West Barnstable, MA 02668-1233
Phone/Fax: (508) 362-7498
E-mail: rdequip@capecod.net
HomePage: http://www.capecod.net/rdequip

SAY-IT-ALL & LOGICAL LANGUAGE
Augmentative Communication Products

Innocomp offers a wide variety of augmentative communication products including **Say-It-All GOLD**, a light weight dedicated device and our new dynamic screen software **Logical Language: Pictures to Print.**

SAY-IT-ALL GOLD SPANISH ENGLISH NOW AVAILABLE

Say-It-All GOLD has the newest DECtalk™ speech technology and is available with Spanish and English DECtalk speech in the same device. It allows the user of the device to store their own personalized vocabularies or to use spontaneous text-to-speech. In addition, two language systems, Routine Talk and Logical Language are available for the **Say-It-All GOLD.**



Logical Language: Pictures to Print Software is dynamic screen software for PC computers. It is a complete language system already designed for you and includes 156 screens of vocabulary of over 1000 words and phrases. It allows you to design your own screens as well as personalize those already designed for you. Logical Language is designed to teach language in an organized progression based on a letter-category approach.

Call for your complete catalog!

Innocomp™
INNOVATIVE COMPUTER APPLICATIONS
26210 Emery Road • Suite 302 • Warrensville Hts., Ohio 44128
1-800-382-8622
216-464-3636 • FAX 216-464-3638
e-mail Innocomp@sayitall.com • Web site: http://www.sayitall.com

Turn Your Structured Settlement or Disability Claim into Cash

If you have special needs. . .and money has become a concern to you or someone you love. . .**Core Funding Group LLC** can help by providing you with. . .**an advance against your future benefits.**

Since 1991, Core Funding has advanced over 40 million dollars in financial assistance to over 400 individuals. Payments made in one lump sum upon approval.

Call today to learn more about the Core "Advanced Funding" Program.

1-800-481-7742
Core Funding Group, LLC
5515 Southwyck Blvd., Suite 202, Toledo, Ohio 43614

Color Your World With ColorTest...

ColorTest is a hand-held color detector with speech output which allows the user to identify up to 150 different colors and their corresponding hue, strength, and brightness.



ColorTest will allow you to sort clothing, packaged products, and colored documents. You can use ColorTest on any object. Call and ask for "CR" to receive additional information.

1-800-223-1839 • www.aph.org

Have it your way!

Subscribe to MAINSTREAM in PRINT or on computer DISK — only $24 for a one-year subscription *(40% off the newsstand rate).*



Send $24 along with your name address and phone number to:
MAINSTREAM, PO Box 370598, San Diego, CA 92102-0598.

Don't forget to let us now if you want to receive your issues in ASCII disk format!

Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of first issue. Canadian orders $44 per year; Other non-U.S. orders $52 per year. ALL non-U.S. orders must be prepaid in U.S. currency. Offer expires 12/31/98.

VISA MasterCard

disabled bus riders, claimed that the Los Angeles County transit agency and Ryder/ATE, which operates some bus routes, were in violation of the ADA.

The plaintiffs said they had complained repeatedly to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to no avail. The lawsuit contends some bus doors designed to accommodate disabled riders were broken, and clamps to hold wheelchairs in place were broken or missing on some buses.

Some disabled riders also were denied service altogether, the lawsuit states. The lawsuit seeks an injunction requiring the MTA and Ryder to give equal access to disabled passengers and eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities.

Marion MacKenzie, a spokeswoman for MTA, declined to comment specifically on the lawsuit but said the agency trains its drivers on how to serve disabled riders. "We take our responsibility to transport the disabled people very, very seriously, as we do with all our riders," Ms. MacKenzie said.

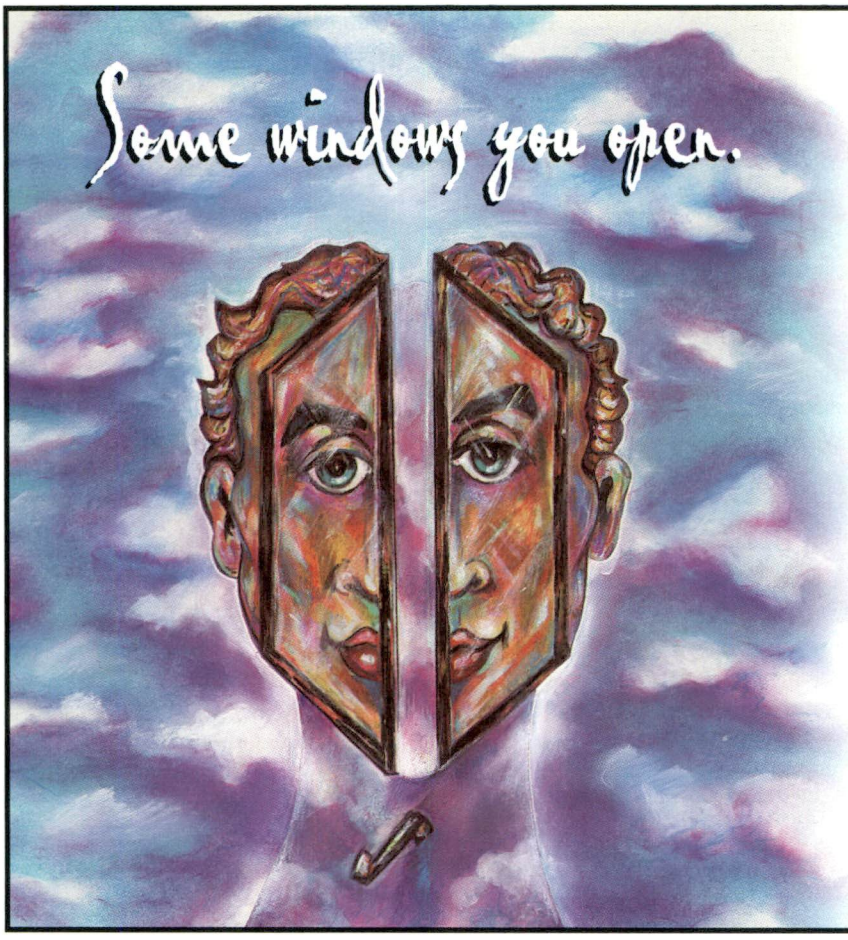
All aboard!

In a proposed nationwide settlement, Amtrak has agreed to increase fare discounts for persons with mobility impairments, offer discounts to their companions and make it easier for them to get wheelchair-accessible rooms.

The settlement, in a suit by a disabled woman and her husband stemming from their experiences on a cross-country train trip, was given preliminary approval by U.S. District Judge Fern Smith in San Francisco. A hearing on final approval is scheduled May 1.

Terms of the settlement include:

- Continuation of the present 15 percent ticket discount for mobility-impaired persons for the next 10 years, and extension of the discount to one adult companion of a mobility-impaired passenger for three years.
- Reductions in prices for wheelchair-accessible bedrooms, which are larger and currently carry higher fees than standard Amtrak bedrooms. Their prices will be dropped 30 percent below standard bedroom charges for three years, then allowed to rise no higher than standard bedroom prices for the following seven years.
- A reservations policy for wheelchair-accessible bedrooms that will make them available only to mobility-impaired passengers until 14 days before departure, then



Some, open you.

Introducing Window-Eyes™ for Windows® 98.
The next generation of screen reading and speech output software.

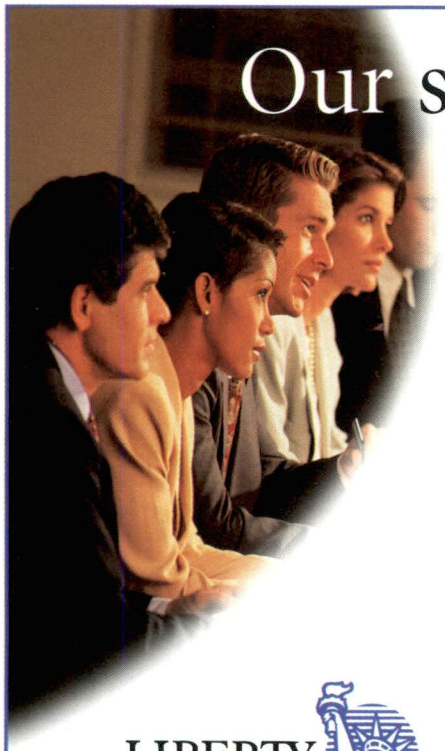
A computer is more than the sum of its bits and bytes. It's an opportunity to explore. To create. And to prosper. Which is why for years, we've been leading the way in bringing this brave new world to people who are visually impaired. Now, we are introducing our newest version of Window-Eyes, with support for Windows 98 and 95 and Windows 3.1x. Call today to receive your free Window-Eyes demo disk, or download it via the Internet. Because not every window is for looking through.

GW MICRO INC.
The Voice of Vision.

(219) 489-3671
FAX (219) 489-2608
e-mail: support@gwmicro.com
www.gwmicro.com
ftp.gwmicro.com

POWERED BY Active accessibility

Our strength is in our people.



Liberty Mutual Group is a $42 billion leader in the insurance and financial services industry. How did we get to where we are today? Our people. More than twenty three thousand talented, diverse, achieving professionals.

We must be doing something right. Our supportive, progressive work environment encourages our employees to pursue the career they've always wanted and to be who they want to be. We offer opportunities that are challenging, training that is inspiring, and futures that are promising.

In 1912, we began a tradition of working directly with our customers. That tradition keeps us what we are today: the leading provider of workers' compensation insurance, programs and services, and one of the largest multiline insurers in the property/casualty field.

With over 500 offices nationwide, we're located in your neighborhood and we have exciting opportunities in our Claims, Financial, Information Systems, Managed Care, Safety, Sales, Service and Underwriting Departments. To find out more about these positions, contact us today.

Please send your resume to **Liberty Mutual Group, Employment, Mail Stop 1C, Attn. Dept: MS0398, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02117; Fax: (603) 422-8831, email: careers@libertymutual.com**

Liberty Mutual Group is an equal opportunity employer committed to workforce diversity.

LIBERTY MUTUAL®
The freedom of Liberty

Visit our website at:
www.libertymutual.com

allow other passengers to reserve them if other large bedrooms aren't available.

• Payments of $15,000 to the two plaintiffs and $80,000 to their lawyers. "We are pleased that Amtrak saw this case as an opportunity to improve their services," said Linda Kilb, a lawyer with the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund who filed the suit.

Placard fees

Disabled New Jersey drivers no longer have to pay fees for disabled license plates or placards, thanks to a lawsuit settlement that will bring refunds of most of that money to about 274,000 people.

The state agreed to settle the class action suit brought by five disabled motorists, who argued that making them pay for the disabled tags amounted to a violation of the federal ADA.

"The disabled are entitled to equal access," said Joel Kreizman, the attorney who brought the suit. The state plans to refund more than $1.4 million collected from disabled drivers over the past six years. But about 25 percent of that overcharge will be used to pay an estimated $350,000 in legal fees for the lawsuit.

The state decided to settle after watching federal courts side with the disabled in California, Maryland and Florida rulings. New Jersey admitted no wrongdoing in the settlement, which officials said will cost the state $2.8 million in lost revenue over the next few years.

Special orange

When Jack Kupka is ready to get back into his van, he can be sure there will be room for the wheelchair lift at the side door.

The Iowa man was paralyzed in a construction accident in 1993 and started his fight to get special orange cones to reserve the space next to his van.

"I worked with legislators to get this passed," said Kupka, 47, a quadriplegic. "It is a law that guarantees people the right to get back into their vans."

Anyone with a wheelchair and van lift may apply to the Iowa Department of Transportation for a cone, which is free. When they park in a public parking lot, they place the cone in the space next to them to save room for the lift.

Tickets and ADA

The Justice Department says it will develop a new pamphlet on ticketing policies to outline the rights of theater-goers and sports fans with disabilities.

The pamphlet will deal with issues such as how much can be charged for a wheelchair seating location, whether ticketing agents can request proof of disability, and how many wheelchair seating locations must be available in a given sports complex or theater.

Mavs win world

The Dallas Mavericks wheelchair basketball team won the World Club Championship, defeating the Spanish team 88-78 in Madrid. The Mavs qualified for the World Club Championship by winning the National Wheelchair Basketball Association championship last year. Only four teams from around the world advanced to the World Club level. The Mavs are sponsored by Invacare.

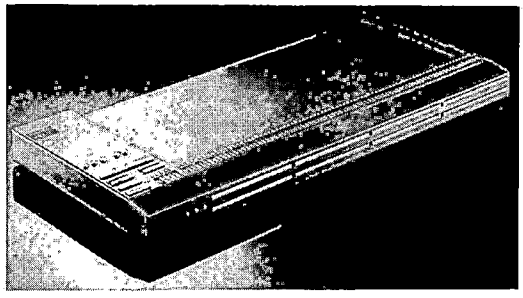
Meanwhile, the 24th National Women's Wheelchair Basketball Tournament is set to begin March 2 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Ten teams from across the nation will participate. ■

Associated Press reports were used in compiling this column.

A Right Move Towards Independence In The Workplace

The KTS braille display

is the right move because it enables people who are blind to read a computer screen by utilizing a state-of-the-art refreshable braille system which includes:



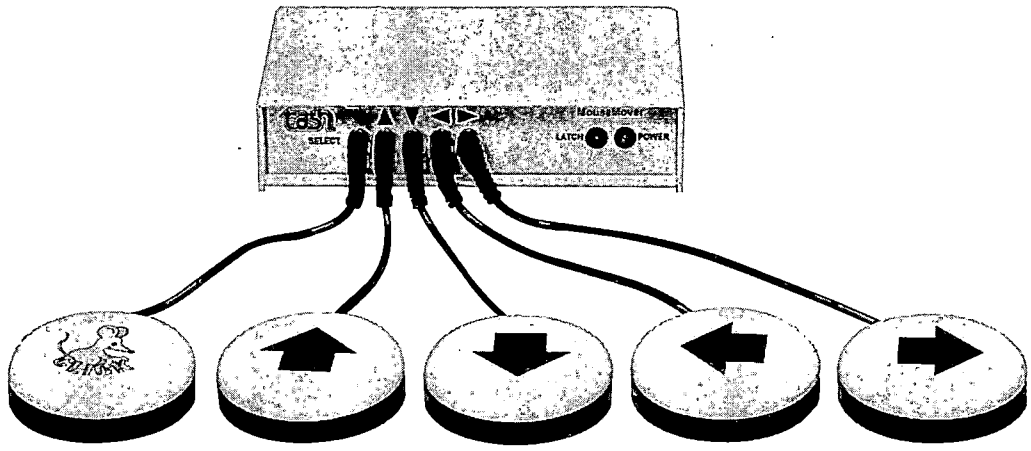
• *Windows compatibility* •
• *On-line help menus foroptimum efficiency* •
• *Powerful 32 BIT Technology for use with all computers* •
• *Serial and Parallel port connections* • *40 and 80 cell models* •
• *One Year Warranty* • *Free Telephone Support* •

ATC, renowned the world over for the development of thermoform machines, continues to market premier products for use by the blind.

• Free catalog and product literature on ALL our products available •

American Thermoform Corporation
2311 Travers Avenue • City of Commerce • CA 90040
phone: (213) 723-9021 • fax: (213) 728-8877
www.atcbrleqp.com

Mousing Around



Move your mouse through switches!

Mac
IBM

Computer Access! by tash

Toll-free: 1-800-463-5685 Fax: (905) 686-6895 Email: tashcan@aol.com

---

outSPOKEN v1.21

See us at CSUN Exhibit Booths 53 & 54



A world of possibilities

What makes outSPOKEN for Windows a great screen reader? Usability. outSPOKEN's ready to use right out of the box - no programming required. Now optimized for Microsoft Office, outSPOKEN's robust features and intuitive controls allow you to get down to business in no time. Imagine the possibilities!

- Windows 95 and 3.1x compatible
- Supports refreshable braille displays, Grade 1 & 2
- New Preset Icon Library
- Installs on virtually any PC, including laptops
- One simple set of commands works universally
- Multiple voices distinguish between text, graphics and system events
- Now supports eight languages

ALVA ACCESS GROUP

510-923-6280 • Fax: 510-923-6270 • TTY: 510-923-6286 • E-mail: info@aagi.com

Download a free demo from our web site **www.aagi.com**

We have a completely different way of dealing with our customers.

We hire them.



Rick Cooper
Consumer Marketing Manager
for Invacare's "Team Action"

Naturally, no one has a better understanding of our customers' needs than our customers themselves. And that's one of the things we look for when we hire. We want people who have an intimate knowledge of our business and our products. You see, hiring talented and qualified people like you is what has made us the world's largest manufacturer of wheelchairs and other medical equipment. So if working with a company like Invacare sounds like an opportunity you'd be interested in, send us your resume. We're looking to develop a pool of talented people that we can draw from as openings occur in marketing, customer service, and other key departments. And we offer excellent benefits and compensation, plus a very positive working environment. It's everything a person with your skills could want. Which is only natural, because pleasing our customers is what we're all about.

Send your resume to: Invacare Corporation, Corporate Human Resources, Department ADI-A, P.O. Box 4028, Elyria, OH, 44036-2125.
www.invacare.com

INVACARE®

National Corporate Sponsor Easter Seals

© 1998 Invacare Corporation.

EMPOWERMENT!

The Testament of Justin Dart, Jr.

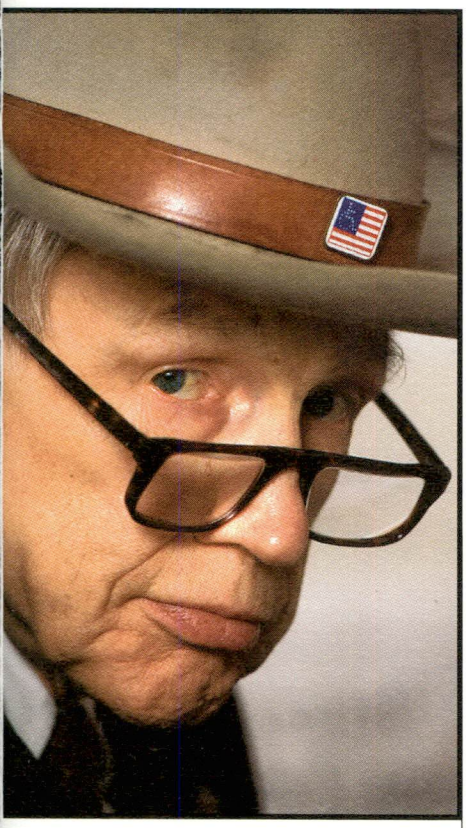


PHOTO BY STAN HONDA

Justin Dart, Jr.

His is a story of great struggle — both internal and external — in a life-long search for personal truth and empowerment. Based on hours of extensive interviews with Dart, his long-time close friend and collaborator Fred Fay tells Justin Dart's remarkable journey.

The Gospel Matthew according to Justin Dart — 1969:

"Get off your ass and become God."

Justin Dart is one of the most passionate, persistent, consistent philosopher-politicians of human rights and human responsibilities in America today.

That view is shared by many. For two decades, Justin Dart has been an indefatigable national leader for disability rights. He is totally predictable. He is never seen without his trademark Texas hat and boots, his blue blazer and gray pants. His message is repeated in every speech, every writing, every conversation, every action.

He demands respect for diverse groups and their differing strategies, policies, opinions and personalities. He demands solidarity in eternal principles that transcend person, group and nation, and a commitment to a no-compromise version of the human dream: a society that empowers all to govern themselves and to live their potential.

This unlikely politics has earned him five gubernatorial, one Congressional and five Presidential appointments. He has received four honorary doctorates, the top awards of virtually every major disability constituency, and the prestigious Hubert Humphrey award given by the entire civil rights community. In January, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States. There are five or six annual Justin Dart Awards. Although he is sometimes criticized for his outspoken political stands and his utopian agenda, he has the respect of the majority of the disability and civil rights communities, and many of the nation's leaders.

He insists that "I have done nothing on my own" and that he has been empowered by others. And yet his impact on the disability rights movement has been profound.

Things were not always so. Dart's life has been a long, tempestuous struggle with the stereotypes that confront all of us. From beginnings steeped in negativity and excess, through three marriages, children, and family suicides, to a position of political prominence, stature and respect, Dart has persevered.

Don't Bring Justin

Justin Dart, Jr. was born in Chicago in 1930, into a family of hard-working, wealthy, prominent winners.

From his conservative business leader/politician father, and his liberal activist mother, Dart inherited a dedication to the principles of democracy, free enterprise and equality, a knowledge of getting ahead in the world of business and politics, and a fierce ambition to win — often defined as attaining power and prestige.

His parents divorced early on, in an atmosphere of hostility which dominated his childhood. Surrounded by negativism and "super winners," Justin decided that the only way to



MAINSTREAM PHOTO BY JEFF REINKING

Justin Dart joins Jennifer Keelan, her mom Cynthia, Bob Kafka, Diane Coleman and other ADAPT demonstrators in the streets of San Francisco to protest inaccessible buses in 1987.

"Mine eyes have seen the glory — it is you."

— Justin Dart, Jr., to his disability rights colleagues.

establish his own identity was to be "super negative."

"I never met a person I couldn't insult," he says. "I never met a rule or an object I couldn't break." Family friends issuing invitations to his mother and father learned to say, "But don't bring Justin."

He went to seven high schools, graduating from none. Along the way he broke Humphrey Bogart's all-time demerit record at elite, 200-year-old Andover prep school, attended by members of George Washington's family and George Bush. "People didn't like me. I didn't like myself," Dart says.

Better Off Dead

In 1948, Dart was living with his father in Los Angeles when he contracted polio. Doctors told his family that he had only days to live — "But don't grieve too much, he'll be better off dead than crippled for life."

Instead, Dart Sr. contacted the Seventh Day Adventist Medical University in Los Angeles, where the doctors promised to fight for the 18-year-old's life.

"I was shocked," recalls Dart. "For the first time in my life I was surrounded by people who were openly expressing love for each other, and for me, even though I was hostile to them in return.

"I remember thinking, these folks seem very happy. If I am going to die, maybe I ought to try their system for these last days. And so I started smiling at people, and saying nice things to them. And they responded, treating me even better. It felt so good! I just sort of went wild, being positive."

It soon became apparent that Dart would not die immediately, but that he would be a wheelchair user for the rest of his life. Far from seeing this as a tragedy, Justin celebrates it as the dawning of his new consciousness. "There was no period of grieving. I count the good days in my life from the time I got polio.

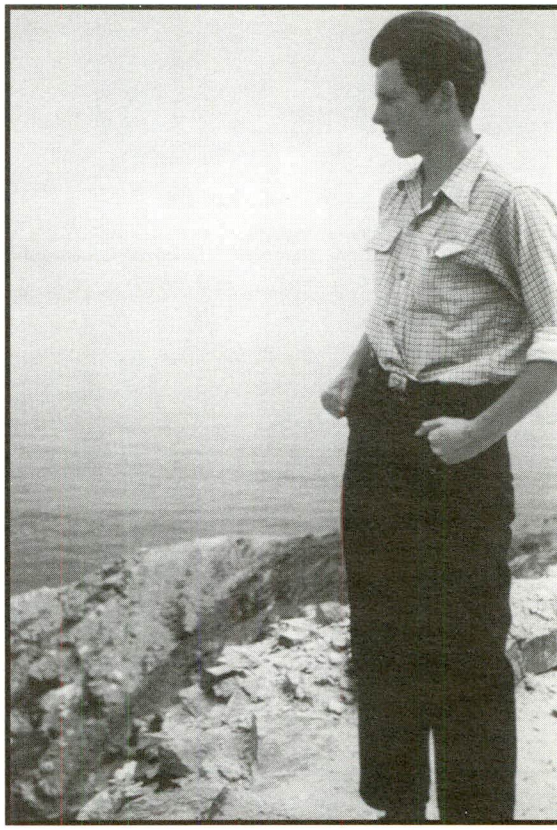
"These great people not only saved my life, they made it worth saving."

In 1949, while still in the hospital, Dart married his high school sweetheart, 16-year-old Suzanne Sloan, "a fine young woman who contributed much to my life — including three beautiful daughters. She enabled me to be independent from the beginning. She deserved better than she got."

He came out of the hospital, a new wheelchair user in a family and a society with no apparent place for him. "I felt the power of love, but didn't have the slightest idea how to use it. All the old stereotypes were still in my mind. I was desperate for a formula to live."

The Gandhi Explosion

That same year Dart read Gandhi's autobiography, *The Story of My Experiments With Truth.* Gandhi, Dart says, told us that you can live a great life. You can change the world. You don't need a lot of money, a title, or anyone's



Sixteen-year-old Justin Dart, Jr. during a visit to Peru in 1946.

approval. You simply find your own truth, and then live that truth.

"The simplicity, the power, the self-evident validity of this concept overwhelmed me. I asked myself, what is my truth? My ideas, other people's ideas, are so often mistaken. What do I know for sure? I know that I am conscious of myself — and that I am motivated to achieve perceptions of 'happiness' through interaction with what appear to be other beings like myself and a vast natural universe.

"Experience and reason dictate one self-evident purpose of life: create quality of life in the interdependent continuum which is myself and humanity.

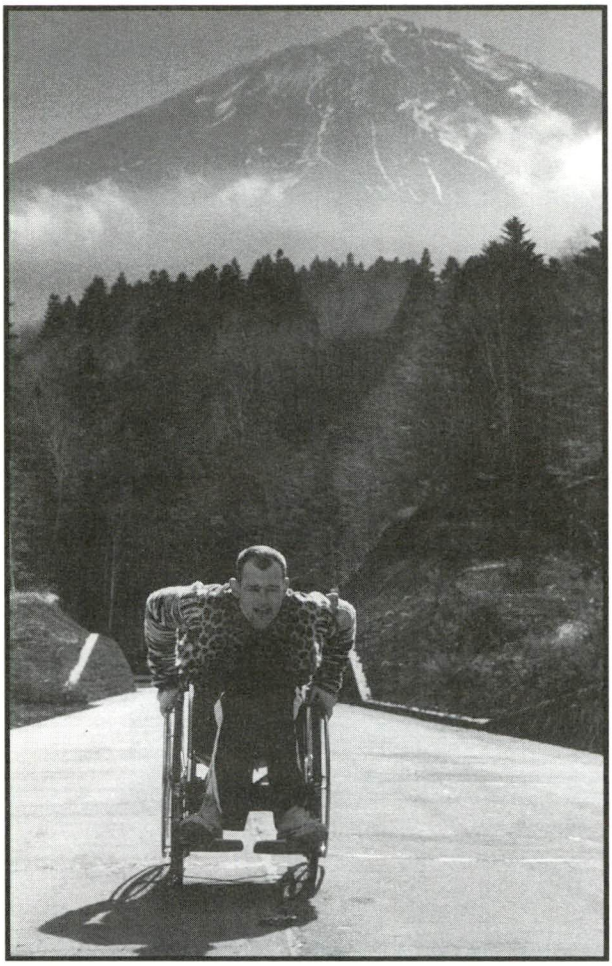
"This was a volcanic vision. It permeated my being with a kind of religious euphoria: the possibility of transcending dependency on a multitude of authoritarian dogmas to take total personal control and responsibility for life."

Reality In The Mainstream

Enrolling at the University of Houston in 1951, Dart encountered harsh reality. The university campus was inaccessible. Every day, to get to class, he had to sit in his chair at the bottom of each building's steps, and beg passersby to carry him up. Rejected throughout the city for part-time employment, he sold the *Houston Chronicle* for 2 cents gross profit each. Now an award-winning honor student, he hoped to become a teacher-politician — eventually in a developing country. But in his senior year he was abruptly informed that there would be no teaching degree, because he was a wheelchair user. Changing his major, he earned a bachelor's and master's in history and government.

During this time, Dart formed the first pro-integration organization in the then-segregated university. "To say I was out of step with the times," Dart recalls now, "is a vast understatement." Out of a student body of 15,000, he managed to recruit just five members into his group, including himself and his wife.

Frustrated by his failure to be a lone wolf Gandhi, Dart joined with the NAACP, the CIO, and other liberal groups to co-found the Harris County Democrats — Houston's alternative to the conservative, anti-civil rights southern Democrats known as the "Dixiecrats." He wrote the group's constitution and its organizing manual, and rented its first tiny office. "It is a dramatic example of the power of a stereotype," Dart says, "that I could be a passionate advocate for racial equality, and not be conscious of the discrimination that I was experiencing."



Always competitive and athletic, Justin Dart, Jr. powers his way up Japan's Mount Fuji in 1965. A dislocated wrist stopped him two-thirds of the way up.

Macho Tycoon

In 1955 Dart entered the University of Texas Law School. After one and a half years, successful in his studies, but tired of school and impatient with the lack of instant success as a reformer, he decided to promote his ideas through a career in business. But there were no jobs for a wheelchair user. His own father's company, Walgreen's, turned him down, claiming there was "no room for the wheelchair behind drug store counters."

In 1956, he borrowed $35,000 and went into the bowling business, first in Austin, then in Mexico City, where he opened the first automatic bowling alley in Latin America.

Like his parents, Dart worked hard, became a flamboyant success and experienced a traumatic divorce — and a bleeding ulcer. In 1961 he sold out and again sought a job. Impressed by his record, Dart's father hired him to establish Tupperware in Japan. This was a job no one

I agree with you that "this nation is founded on the principle that each human life is sacred and inviolable. People with disabilities have an absolute right and responsibility to participate fully and equally in society and to maximize their quality of life potential in manners of their own choosing."

— President Ronald Reagan quoting Justin Dart, Jr., Letter of January 5, 1984 to the National Council.

wanted. Tupperware had no patents in Japan, and no idea how to overcome cultural and government resistance to foreign business.

On arrival in Japan, Dart immediately courted and married Kyoto kindergarten teacher Fusako Tanida. "She is a fine human being, who gave me two more beautiful daughters. Like my first wife, she empowered me at an important time and was deeply hurt by my wild struggle with stereotypes."



September 1993, MAINSTREAM

St. Justin In The Wheelchair

Dart founded Japan Tupperware with four employees in 1963, and expanded it to 25,000 by 1965.

Inspired by the 1964 Tokyo Paralympics, and impressed with the PR possibilities, he launched a kind of "help the handicapped campaign," giving away wheelchairs and speaking at institutions for children with disabilities. He took 11 young paraplegics out of full-care institutions, gave them jobs, and formed them into a basketball team that played — and won — exhibitions against famous non-disabled athletes using wheelchairs.

The program was an explosive success. Dart became a media personality, appearing on the cover of the "Time Magazine" of Japan, and receiving personal congratulations from the Crown Prince and Princess — now the Emperor and Empress. He was known as "the wheelchair president." One magazine article was entitled "St. Justin in the Wheel Chair." Sales and profits boomed.

The Gandhi vision was, for the moment, overwhelmed by the traditional stereotypes of power and prestige. "I succumbed to virtually every aspect of the then fashionable Hemingway-Howard Hughes macho model: the posturing for the media and photo ops with the stars, the big houses and flashy cars, the womanizing, the alcohol, the prescription drugs. I poached deer and antelope, caught sharks and marlin, camped from Houston to Fairbanks."

But while Dart's passion for reform burned low during this period, it was still there. He was an adamant supporter of equal opportunity. He empowered women, the uneducated and laborers as executives in America, Mexico and Japan. He started a student free speech center in Mexico and pioneered the beginnings of independence for people with disabilities in Japan.

In the fall of '65, irritated by his radical departures from corporate policy, and his outspoken flaunting of his success, international Tupperware leadership ordered Dart to conform. Instead, he abruptly resigned.

Still, he gained much from business — a hands-on knowledge of empowerment, of the power and process of free enterprise, of budget and PR. His greatest gain by far was his relationship with Japan Tupperware executive Yoshiko Saji — the person who was to be his partner in empowerment for the next 30 years.

The Reality Of Evil

Dart thought his well-publicized success would swiftly lead to another top level job. But to the world he was still a cripple who worked for his father. He was bad-mouthed by his Tupperware superiors. He never even got an interview.

In 1966 he borrowed $250,000 and launched DartCard, a venture whereby greeting cards would be sold with part of the profit benefiting people with disabilities. It soon became the largest card company in Japan, but, admits Dart, "it was a hasty, mediocre decision, economically and morally."

With the Vietnam war dominating the front page and "needing a PR punch for my new card business," Dart traveled to that country to investigate the situation of people with disabilities in Saigon. His small party included his future wife Yoshiko.

"I expected dramatic problems. I discovered profound atrocity. One day I visited a place that advertised itself as an institution for polio children. There was a large shed with a tin roof. There were about 50 children aged perhaps 3 to 10, wearing white loin cloths. They had bloated bellies, bulging eyes and matchstick arms and legs. They lay covered with flies on the hot concrete floor in a swamp of their own urine and feces. They were starving to death.

"One little girl reached out and took my hand. She looked into my eyes. I felt a love, a serenity, a passion to live that was thunderous in its silence, profoundly beautiful in its transcendence over horror.

"She was looking for God. What she found was a counterfeit saint. That scene is burned forever into my soul. For the first time in my life I understood the reality of evil. And that *I* was part of that reality.

"I returned to my hotel and I got drunk and sick. I knew that I could not live with myself if I did not try to do something about the atrocities I had witnessed. I determined to devote the rest of my life to the struggle for a rational society."

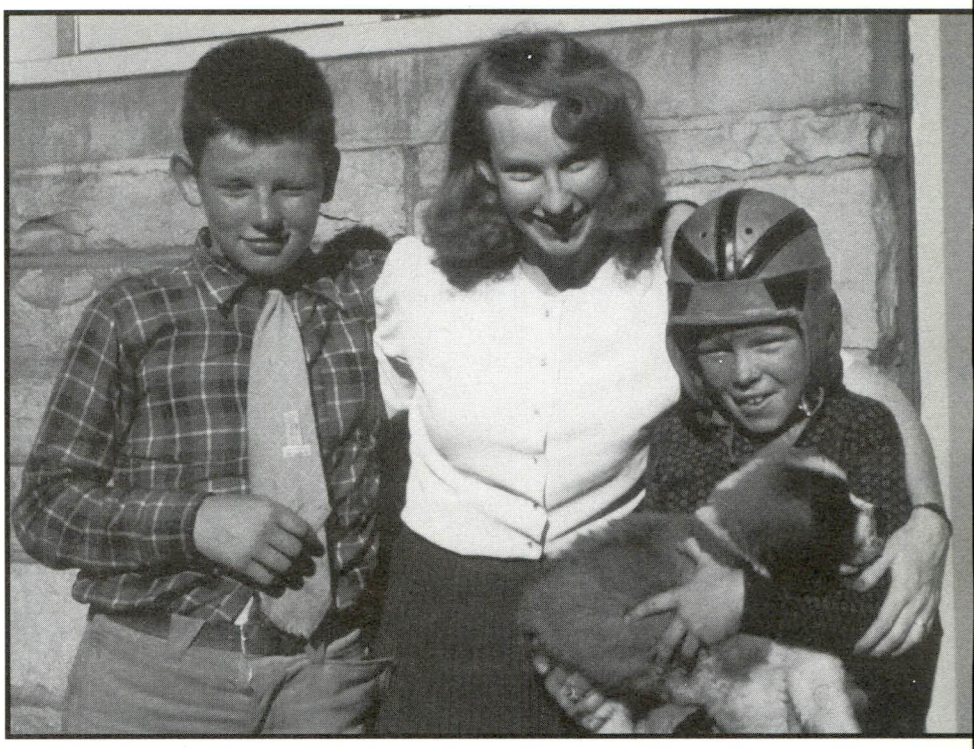
Dart prepared a scathing report on "rehabilitation" in Vietnam for the World Conference of Rehabilitation International, but that report was largely ignored.

Reflection And Revolution

Dart returned to Japan, terminated his business interests, finalized a divorce with his second wife, and married Yoshiko. In 1968, realizing he had never really followed Gandhi's advice to define his own truth, he decided on a period of reflection. Low on money, he and Yoshiko moved to an abandoned farm house in a remote mountain community, where they lived for most of the next 6 years. There was no indoor plumbing, no central heat, no telephone, no ramps, no car and no paved road. "In the winter Yoshiko had to hammer the ice off the pipes every day and the snow would blow up your ass from the hole-in-the-floor country toilet."



With the Tupperware team he put together, Justin Dart (center, left) plays basketball in Japan in 1965.



Eleven-year-old Justin Dart, Jr., in football helmet, pictured with his mother Ruth Walgreen Stephan and his brother Peter Dart at home in Chicago in 1941.

He read history and philosophy and corresponded with a number of '60s activists. He struggled with addictions to alcohol, prescription drugs and the old stereotypes. He refined his thoughts on politics and empowerment.

Early on he came to a soul-shaking conclusion. "I am the problem. I am, all humans are, addicted to primitive self-defeating stereotypes, killing each other to gain money, power and prestige."

He wrote an impassioned declaration: "I Traitor, I Revolution," in which he advocated "Revolution in I Universe....I Justin Dart am the starting place and [hold] the complete responsibility for my revolution in my universe; it will be created by me or it will not be."

Later he wrote: "But what can one lone individual, what can 'I' do that will make a difference? I can't fight the whole society. I don't run the government.

"The first answer," he said, "is that I am society. I am the government. I am the difference — the only difference. Only when I change will society and government change. The responsibility is mine...."

As with his discovery of Gandhi, Dart's initial reaction to this insight was euphoria. By freeing himself of his own addictions and stereotypes, he would end his personal oppression and send a powerful message to others. He would attain a kind of moral perfection — and undoubtedly a good deal of public recognition. ➡

". . .I am society. I am the government. I am the difference — the only difference. Only when I change will society and government change. The responsibility is mine. . ."

— Justin Dart, Jr.

This, of course, turned out to be yet another illusion.

After weeks of agonizing effort, Dart realized that his addictions to stereotypes would probably never be eliminated completely, that he faced a lifetime of painful, unglamorous struggle.

He became ill, depressed, and retreated further into alcohol and prescription drugs. Yoshiko Dart recalls, "It was a tough time."

But Dart vowed: "I will come back."

As an early experiment in empowerment, the Darts started to take in people with problems. During the next 30 years there would be 80 foster daughters — and two foster sons — living with Justin and Yoshiko for from 6 months to several years. There are two now. These are young people, 16-30, with and without disabilities, who seek to overcome traditional barriers and take command of their lives. There have been people with psychiatric, learning, developmental, sensory and physical disabilities — people with financial, personality and family problems, people with unfashionable ambitions — two straight out of institutions. They receive career and personal counseling, sometimes financial assistance; most go to school. In return, all volunteer to work in the movement. All who have stayed the course — more than 90 percent — have achieved or exceeded their educational, employment and other goals. All have taken control of their own lives.



Cutting the cake after a ceremony in Japan in 1967, Justin Dart, Jr. and Yoshiko Saji are married.

In 1974 Dart, making good progress against his substance abuse and feeling more comfortable with the lifetime of struggle ahead, decided the time had come to carry "the revolution of responsibility down from the mountain and into the mainstream."

Dart, Yoshiko and foster family moved to Seattle. There was little response from that community, and it was mostly negative. Dart decided the only way he could communicate effectively was to join the disability rights movement.

In 1978 he moved to Austin, Texas and joined the local disability rights group MIGHT. He felt instantly at home.

He immersed himself in local politics and fund raising. He toured the nation to study the top 30 independent living centers, and was mentored by prominent advocates. With the guidance and support of long-time Texas advocates, he served five gubernatorial appointments — terms as Chair of the Governor's Committee, and of a blue ribbon Governor's task force to draft a state disability policy.

Washington — A New Voice

In 1981 newly elected President Ronald Reagan replaced all of the members of the National Council on Disability. Dart's visible success in Texas — and probably his father's reputation as leader of the Reagan "kitchen cabinet" — earned him an appointment as Vice Chair. Dart, as usual, pursued this part-time position more than full time. With the complete backing of NCD chair Joseph Dusenbury, Dart appointed a strong disability rights advisory committee, and personally visited every state to involve local advocates in drafting a grassroots national policy.

He began to build a reputation. But would this strange son of a rich Republican take a stand?

In 1986 President Reagan appointed Dart to head the Rehabilitation Services Administration. RSA was a $3 billion federal agency that had a reputation for inefficiency and paternalism. Insisting on things like consumer control of independent living, the appointment of advo-

cates like Frank Bowe and John Nelson to be executives in the agency, businesslike management, and strict implementation of the Rehabilitation Act, Dart came into immediate conflict with the federal bureaucracy.

The struggle went public on November 18, 1987, when Dart read a "Statement of Conscience" to a packed Congressional hearing.

"We are confronted by a vast, inflexible federal system which, like the society it represents, still contains a significant proportion of individuals who have not yet overcome obsolete, paternalistic attitudes about disability...."

Within days, Dart was asked to resign. But massive public support from the disability community, and his refusal to trash his President or his boss, education rights pioneer Madeleine Will, through the media, earned him reappointment to the National Council at a crucial time for the struggle to pass the ADA.

In 1989 George Bush named Dart to chair the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. His appointment was attacked by traditionalists, who thought a veteran should have the position. Dart was accused of moving the focus of PCEPD from employment to disability rights, and bringing in "fanatics like Paul Marchand and Pat Wright."

Dart: "I plead guilty. No transportation, no health care, no education, no civil rights, no jobs."



Opening the office of the first disability rights organization in Vietnam in 1966, Justin Dart, Jr., left, celebrates with Vietnamese disability rights activists. The day after Dart left the country, police closed the office.



Justin Dart, Jr. talks to President Clinton, Attorney-General Janet Reno and others at a White House meeting in 1994.

Under Dart — and his colleague advocates on staff like Jay Rochlin, Phil Calkins, Rick Douglas and John Lancaster — PCEPD became a strong voice for the ADA and empowerment policy.

Father Of The ADA?

Dart is often introduced as the father of the ADA. He fairly shouts "NO! There were hundreds of mothers and fathers of ADA.

"The notion that anyone is the single cause of any significant social change — 'Lincoln freed the slaves' — is a devastating stereotype which robs individuals of responsibility and credit, and actually inhibits social change. There were thousands of indispensable patriots of ADA."

What Dart did do for ADA was to criss-cross the nation, visiting every state from three to 20 times to promote the cause among potential advocates. He used every political and marketing trick he knew to beat down the stereotypes that blocked the way to full equality.

Ultimatum

When the National Council's ground-breaking report to Congress, *Towards Independence*, made the ADA the prime proposal, the White House called.

"What were you folks thinking about with this civil rights thing? The President won't touch it with a 10-foot pole. Take it out." NCD director Lex Frieden and Dart decided to take a stand. With the aid of Madeleine Will and PVA's Gordon Mansfield, Dart met Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Bradford Reynolds. Instead of negotiating for permission to retain the controversial ADA recommendation — or part of it — Dart delivered a virtual ultimatum. "Bradford, I do not believe Ronald Reagan wants to go down in history as the president who opposed keeping the promise of the Declaration of Independence to 35 million Americans with Disabilities."

After a long moment of silence, Reynolds responded, "Justin, the President is not going to

Justin reminds me of the familiar words:

"Oh beautiful for patriot's dream

that sees beyond the years

Thine alabaster cities gleam

undimmed by human tears."

— Elizabeth Boggs

oppose your report, he is going to support it — in writing." He did.

The Task Force

In 1988, with the ADA before the Congress, Congressman Major Owens created the Task Force on the Rights and Empowerment of Americans with Disabilities, with Dart as co-chair, to gather information and make recommendations to the Congress. Dart named a distinguished panel aimed at securing the best possible input and uniting the fragmented disability community behind ADA.

Uniquely present were advocates with psychiatric disabilities, and with mental retardation. There were objections to having members with AIDS — "we should not have representatives of people with AIDS, people with AIDS will die." Dart bristled. "Of course they will die; so will you and I. We are not into perpetuating paternalism." He appointed two people with AIDS.

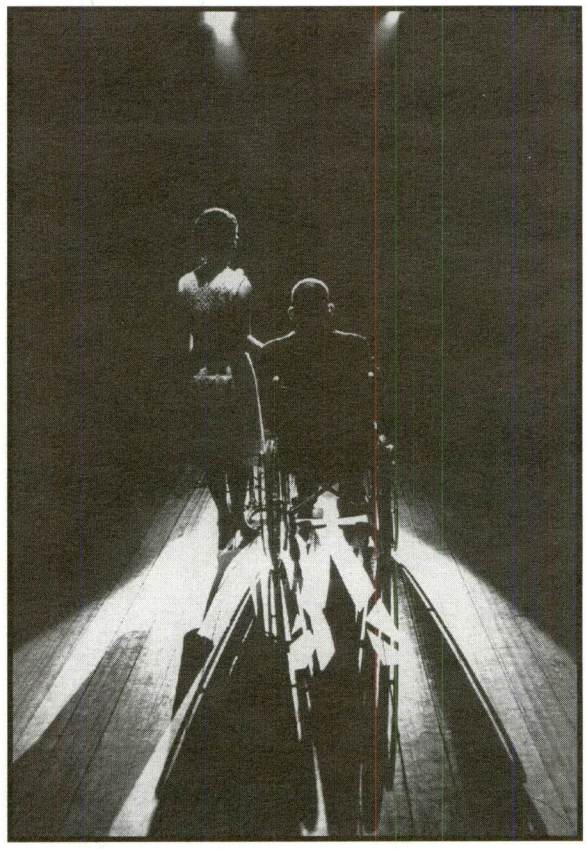
With no public or private funding — relying on his personal resources and contributions by local advocates — Dart personally chaired 63 public hearings, at least one in every state, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico and Guam, with a total attendance of more than 30,000.

There was no pretense of neutrality. While he insisted on the rights of all to have their say in their own way, Dart vigorously advocated ADA from the podium. Thousands of petitions and statements were filed and presented to Congress by the carton. With overwhelming community backing, the ADA swept through Congress and was signed into law on July 26, 1990.

Citizen Soldier

During the election of '92 Dart witnessed the dramatic rise of the far right. He foresaw a war for the survival of democracy in which conscience required him to be a full-time advocate. In October '93 he resigned as Chair of the President's Committee, vowing to be a full-time citizen soldier for justice.

In '93-'94 Dart joined disability community and other advocates in the struggle for universal health care. He and "super-advocate" Becky Ogle campaigned coast to coast — often speaking from the same platform as the President, the Vice President or the First Lady.



Addressing a 1965 meeting of the Tupperware company in Japan, Justin Dart, Jr. has his chief assistant Yoshiko at his side.

They lost. The defeat was followed immediately by the Contract with America, which Dart saw as an effort to destroy the authority of the nation to protect and empower its citizens. "Abraham Lincoln went to war and gave his life to preserve that authority." In the election of 1994 Dart and Ogle went all out for Senate candidates who opposed the contract, campaigning, often with the President. They lost again.

In the flush of victory the Contract leaders revealed their true colors. Newt Gingrich: "We're going to wipe the slate clean and re-establish American culture the way it has existed for the last 300 hundred years."

Dick Armey: "The ADA is the worst written law I have ever seen —we're going to rewrite it."

Bob Dole spoke publicly about possible amendments. *Restoring the Dream*, published by the Republican National Committee, ridiculed the ADA: "regulatory horror stories," "senseless, arbitrary," "huge cost."

Justice For All

On January 6, '95 Dart, Ogle and others convened a meeting of 78 grassroots and Washington leaders. A community statement drafted by Dart was, with minor amendments, adopted. "We will fight to the end of time any change that will exclude any American child or adult from a real, practical opportunity to participate in the American Dream."

"Justin Dart went to every state to organize Americans with disabilities for the Clinton-Gore campaign. That's one reason we won some of those states."

— Bill Clinton, November 6, 1996

At that meeting, Dart announced the formation of Justice For All, an "ad-hoc SWAT team" dedicated to mobilize grassroots and national advocates to fight the massive assault on democracy.

JFA was led by long-time advocates unfettered by the limitations imposed on government and non-profit employees.

Dart spoke out for democracy throughout the land. He and Yoshiko tripled their political advocacy. They flooded the nation with hundreds of thousands of American Flag stickers "ADA, IDEA, America Wins."

I Am A Republican

Perhaps Dart's finest hour was the '96 election, which he saw as the most important since the Civil War, an election which could determine the survival of the United States as guarantor of liberty, justice and free enterprise for all.

He held meetings with disability community leaders in every state, in some states several times. "Get into politics as if your lives depended on it. They do. I am not going to tell you how to vote. I am going to tell you how I'm going to vote. I am a Republican. Bob Dole is my hero. But he has endorsed a retreat from democracy. In '96 I am a Republican for Clinton. I ask you to make a decision of conscience, to advocate disability rights in the campaign of the candidate of your choice."

Dart signed up 227 state and national leaders to campaign for Dole — and 2,538 to campaign for Clinton. Many had never taken a public stand on a major candidate.

In 1992 Clinton carried the disability vote by 24 points. In 1996, he won by 46 points.

The Little PAC For Empowerment

Criticized for his partisan politics, Dart has responded. "People with disabilities have no million-dollar Political Action Committees. Yoshiko and I have tried our best to be a little PAC for empowerment."

For more than a decade, the Darts have made significant contributions to many candidates in both parties. But the "Contract" convinced them to shift their major support to the Democratic Party. Identified in the press as a lobbyist guest on Air Force One, Dart said: "Of course, our political system needs to be reformed — but meanwhile, I am not in the slightest embarrassed to use every legal method to speak ten or one hundred words to the President of the United States on behalf of America's poorest, most oppressed citizens."

Justin Dart, '98

Dart has come a long way from the flamboyant macho stereotypes of his early years. He owns no house, no car, takes no alcohol or mood modifying drugs. He refuses to fly first class, ride in limousines, or occupy hotel suites, even when paid for by others.

For the past 12 years he has worked, eaten and slept in the 15' X 11' "guest room" of a small two-bedroom apartment in Southwest DC. His desk is a damaged, unfinished door, bought 22 years ago for $2.95. The entire apartment is jammed with desks, shelves, office machines, and carton boxes. The walls are covered with the messages and faces of human rights.

His policies and rules of management are posted in their entirety on the living room wall — "lead, follow or get the hell out of the way."

Yet Dart denies he is an ascetic. "I live where I want to live, eat what I want to eat, associate with the greatest people and work at the best job in the world."

Politics Of Solidarity

Justin Dart has never made a speech without a ringing demand for unity. Justin Dart never holds a meeting without inviting representatives of all major disability constituencies. His is a solidarity of inclusion, a politics that defends the right of every person and group to advocate their own interests in their own way, but demands solidarity in the eternal values that bind all humans together. No group or individual attacks another member of the disability community. All express solidarity for the ultimate goal: an empowerment culture.

"Humans with or without disabilities will never fully achieve any of their legitimate goals until there is a revolution to eliminate primitive

"Justin Dart is the best appointment that Ronald Reagan has made."

— Senator Lowell Weicker at one of Dart's Senate confirmation hearings.



In search of clarity and truth, Justin and Yoshiko retreated to an abandoned farmhouse in a small village in the mountains of Japan in 1968. They stayed for six years.

stereotypes, and to establish a culture that focuses the full force of science and democracy on the systematic empowerment of every person to live his or her God-given potential, to govern self and society, and to produce a life of quality for all," Dart declares.

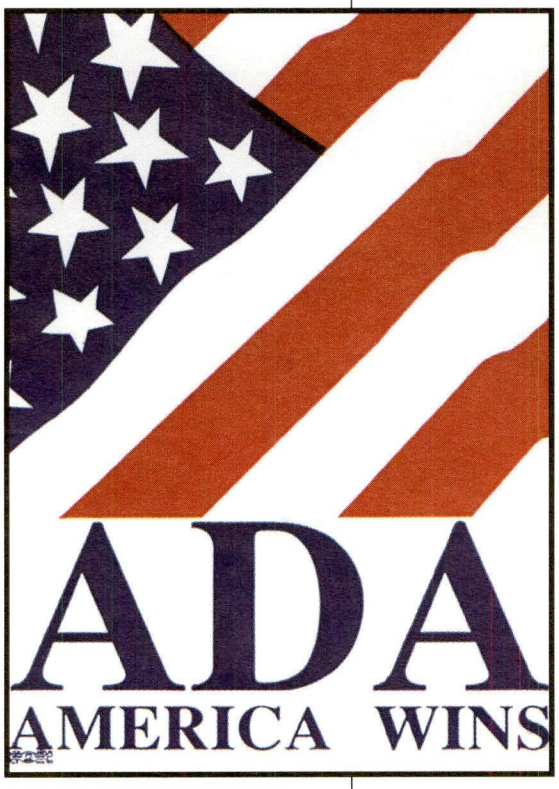
"We of the disability community have the experience, the knowledge and therefore the responsibility to lead that revolution. We must do it."

But how can humanity possibly overcome the ancient stereotypes, the powerful forces for the status quo, to achieve total empowerment? Dart says, "The buck stops here."

"You can be a revolution of one. In your living room, in your family, in your community. But you will not be alone. We welcome you into the international army of empowerment. Join your local disability rights group. If there is none, start one."

Politics Of Love

Justin Dart may say "I love you" more often than any other person in the world. He has said it to Presidents Bush and Clinton. He has said it to Bob Dole, Newt Gingrich and Dick Armey. He said it to a man who threatened to kill him. He has said it to thousands. He means it.



His is not the "have a nice day," "anything is OK" love that is often used to avoid hard stands on issues of value. It is the profound love that empowers each to live his or her dream. Love is power. Justin Dart has helped to make love politically correct in the disability community.

Dart, A Stereotype

For all his talk about battling stereotypes, Dart is in danger of becoming one himself. "Some people make me sound like a sort of kindly, idealistic, self-sacrificing superman, who single-handedly waved a magic wand and changed history for all.

"There is no such person. I have struggled — I still struggle — with devastating addictions. I have too often failed and betrayed life. I have never done a single positive thing without the loving empowerment of specific people. There are thousands in my hall of fame." Dart gives major credit to Yoshiko. "She is the foundation of every contribution I have made the last 30 years."

A Statement of Conscience

At age 67, Dart has been experiencing the effects of post-polio syndrome as well as a progressive neuro-muscular disease and other significant health problems. In early December, he was hospitalized with what doctors called massive congestive heart failure.

Even in the hospital, with his life hanging in the balance, Dart refused to compromise his principles of empowerment and self-determination. He spent eight days at Georgetown Medical Center; the doctors "did everything they could," including inserting a pacemaker to regulate his erratic heartbeat. "The people there did a wonderful job. They saved my life. Even so, they're underfunded and understaffed, and for all their good intentions that hospital is inaccessible. They still have the old attitudes, that the patient is somewhat less than human, and one feels like a laboratory rat in a cage." Ill as he was, Dart continued his political work from his bed, called disability rights leaders across the country. President Clinton called him twice to express his wishes for Justin's recovery.

Against his doctors' advice, Dart checked himself out of the hospital when it became clear that his condition was unlikely to respond to further treatment. This was "a statement of conscience. This is my protest against the whole system that coerces people to be in hospitals and nursing homes, and my stand in favor of a society where people will have real choices, and funding, encouragement and structures to live at home, and if they want to, to die at home, fully in charge of their own lives and health care."

Dart expressed no fear of death, telling callers how "another stereotype we have to fight against is this idea that we will live forever. When I die, I want the manner of my death to be a statement of empowerment. I want my death to be consistent with the principles by which I've lived." Which is not to say Dart *wants* to die. "I'm fighting for every minute in the day. I'm continuing to do my politics as much as I can, and trying to live my principles."

Promises To Keep

"Before I die I want to take the revolution of empowerment to the world. I won't change history single-handedly, but maybe I can plant a few seeds of revolution that will grow.

"Beloved colleagues in struggle, listen to the heart of this old soldier. I reach out to you with passion, with love. I cry out to you. Lead! Lead! I ask only for the privilege of being a citizen soldier by your side in the greatest battle of all history. Together, only together, we shall overcome." ■

Fred Pelka assisted in the research and preparation of this work.



President George Bush, flanked by Justin Dart, Jr. and Evan Kemp, with Rev. Harold Wilke and Sandra Perrino standing behind, signs the Americans with Disabilities Act into law at the White House on July 26, 1990.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

An open letter from Justin Dart to the disability community.

Thanks to the pioneers of science, equal opportunity, free enterprise and democracy. Thanks to you, humanity has created cultures which offer standards of living and social justice beyond the wildest dreams of our ancestors of only a few centuries ago. America is a dramatic example.

Thanks to you, people with disabilities have come a long way. Your pioneering experiments have proven absolutely that people with almost any disability can be full, productive, contributing members of mainstream society.

But the job of science and democracy is far from finished. In spite of humanity's astounding ability to create conspicuous affluence, hundreds of millions of people still live short, desperate lives of oppression and poverty.

Poverty and discrimination exist not only in developing nations, but also in wealthy nations like America. No person anywhere, rich or poor, is living as well as they could.

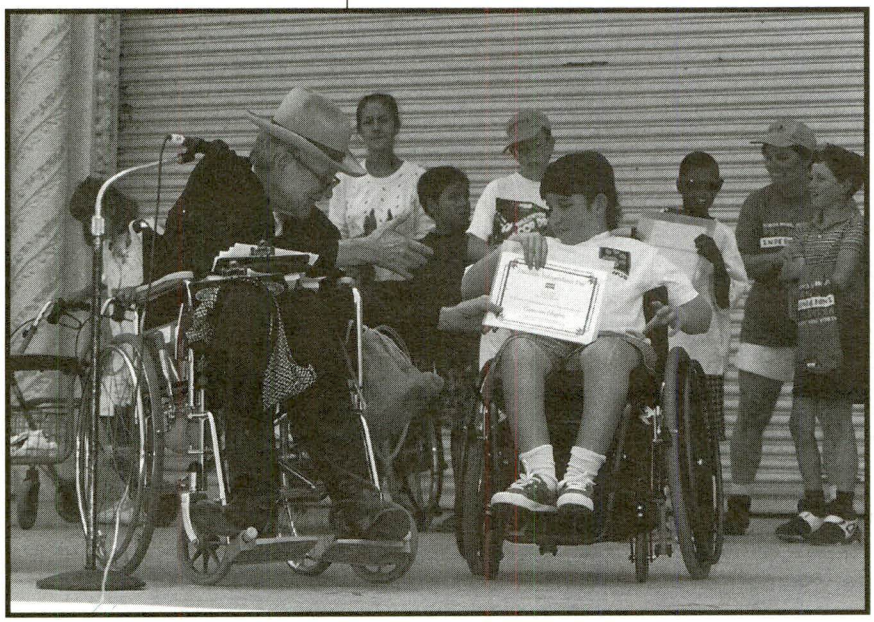
In spite of our impressive progress, 54 million Americans with disabilities, almost three-quarters of a billion people with disabilities in other nations, form humanity's poorest, most oppressed group. ➡

"Without your believing and your leadership this day would not have been possible."

— George Bush, handwritten note to Justin Dart, at the signing of the ADA, July 26, 1990.

In booming America, 67 percent of potentially employable people with disabilities are jobless; millions can't get health insurance for any price, unless they go on welfare. Hundreds of thousands are segregated in institutions and back rooms of ghettoes.

In many countries people with disabilities are beggars left to starve by the roadside. There are countries where 20 percent of children with disabilities do not survive the age of 20, where 90 percent of children with mental impairments do not live to be six.



At an ADA celebration in San Diego in July 1996, Justin Dart, Jr., gives awards to students with disabilities, the future leaders of the movement.

"Justin Dart ....in his own way has the most Olympian spirit I believe I have ever come across."

— Bill Clinton, August 6, 1996

Only a tiny handful of countries have mandated full equality for people with disabilities. But in no country is full equality a reality of daily life.

There are countries where people with disabilities are not even allowed to vote.

There are countries where they still kill babies with disabilities.

In the United States of America there are people who say we're better off dead.

How many million people with disabilities die every year from violence, from lack of the basic necessities of life? Two million? Four million? Ten million?

Nobody knows. Dead whales they count. Spotted owls and butterflies they count. Deaths among people with disabilities they don't even bother to count. Holocaust.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that our old approaches to culture — even the best of them — have reached their useful limits. People cry out for a new vision of government and society, a revolution that will harness our fantastic resources to enable all to live the good life that is clearly possible.

We of the disability community have that vision.

I propose that we of the disability community lead the revolution of empowerment. We have unique knowledge and experience to offer. We have the responsibility to lead.

People with disabilities, people without disabilities, will never fully achieve any of their legitimate goals until that revolution occurs.

These truths are self-evident:

Truth: Each human life, the quality of each human life, is sacred and inviolable.

Truth: All human beings have an inalienable right and an inalienable responsibility to govern their own lives, to govern society, to invest all of their abilities and resources in producing lives of quality not only for themselves and their families, but for all.

Truth: Human beings are by nature interdependent. You cannot be responsible for your own family without being responsible for the society in which they live.

Truth: The purpose — the first and only legitimate priority — of society and its governments is not to govern people and to provide the good life for them, but to empower them — all of them — to govern themselves and to provide the good life for themselves and their fellow humans.

Government of the people, by the people, for the people — all the people.

Empowerment is not empty rhetoric. There is a distinct and vital difference between society/government that empowers people, and society/government that provides for them and regulates them for their own good, or free market capitalism that allows some people to amass money and power at the expense of others.

Empowerment is when government joins with business, labor, religion, and individual citizens to guarantee every person the tools to govern, to produce and live the best life possible for self and for all.

Empowerment to govern oneself does not imply freedom from universal values. On the contrary, empowerment mandates abso-



lute individual and collective responsibility for those self-evident values that support the preservation and quality of human life — and on which all great religions and cultures agree.

Empowerment is when the good life for all is the first, not the second or last, priority of every person and organization.

Empowerment. Where do we start?

You have already started. In America, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, independent living, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, supported employment and the ADA are all magnificent foundation stones for the culture of empowerment.

But that's only the beginning.

The time has come to move from the promise of opportunity to the reality of living well.

First, last and always, we must unite service providers, people with disabilities, their families and supporters. We must reach out in every nation to form a grand coalition with government, business, labor, media, religion and all who love justice. We must create and communicate a dynamic empowerment agenda. We must demand, we must lead, the execution of that agenda.

Together we must create intensive programs to educate and to motivate people with and without disabilities to understand and to advocate for empowerment, and to fulfill their rights and their obligations as responsible members of an empowerment culture. We must destroy the primitive stereotypes that form the principal barriers to empowerment.

The mother of all stereotypes: People with disabilities are not fully human. They are a minority of tragic victims, with little potential to contribute. They are only marginally relevant to the mainstream of culture.

This monstrous fallacy is the foundation of most barriers.

The truth is that we are a magnificent, triumphant majority. Seven out of ten, the majority, of Americans, will triumph over death to live with a disability at some point in their lives. Every single family in the world will have members with disabilities.

Science gives all humans, with and without disabilities, the potential to be far more productive, to live far better than our smartest, healthiest, richest ancestors of only a few centuries ago. Public policy that does not meet the needs of people with disabilities, does not meet the needs of anyone.

Together we must convince the United Nations and every nation to create an aggressive international policy to support the rights and empowerment of people with disabilities. Disabled People International, Canada and the Scandinavian nations are leading the charge in this area.

Together, we must convince every nation to enact legislation declaring people with disabilities to be fully equal citizens, with legally enforceable equal access to full participation in every aspect of culture.

We who have disabilities are never going to be allowed to participate in the human community until we are legally recognized as

Outwitted

He drew a circle that left me out —

Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout,

But love and I had the wit to win:

We drew a circle that took him in.

—Edwin Markham



In January 1997, accompanied by Yoshiko, Justin Dart addresses a Not Dead Yet demonstration outside the Supreme Court in Washington, DC.

Life quality school song from Obiraki period. 1968-74:

"We are soldiers of the truth.

"We live the revolution.

"We eat raw grass and worms and things, it builds our constitutions.

"Passion's blood is in our hearts.

"Living is our standard.

"With the love of RIU we kill the tribal bastard."

human beings. ADA, customized for every land.

Together we must create laws in every nation that mandate the absolute right of all people — with or without disabilities — to live, to be protected from murder, torture, mutilation, and unjust confinement, from assisted death and other assaults on life and dignity.

Together we must convince every nation to create a continuum of comprehensive, integrated public and private empowerment services guaranteed to all people on a lifetime basis. A system that empowers each person to make daily choices from among the best public and private services that a great free enterprise culture can offer.

Empowerment means choices.

Empowerment means life-long, comprehensive consumer choice health care and education for all. Rehabilitation and independent living services that empower all.

Social security and welfare that provide incentives for productivity, decent jobs with decent pay for all who can work — and lives of dignity for all who cannot work. Community-based services, guaranteed by law to all who need them.

Housing, transportation, communications, communities that empower all.

Let no person ever again be segregated in an institution, a back room or any other place for lack of services or communities that empower.

Yes we have a great agenda. But how can we possibly overcome the ancient stereotypes, the powerful lobbies for retreat and for the status quo?

The buck stops here.

We have done much. We have to do more.

Each one of us is responsible. Each one of us must lead. Each one of us must recruit new leaders.

Some of you may say, well I have no money, no title. I'm not Joshua Malinga, Judy Heumann or Justin Dart. I'm not Nelson Mandela or Bill Clinton. I'm not a leader. What can I do?

You read my PR, you think I was a born winner. Hah! I was a born loser.

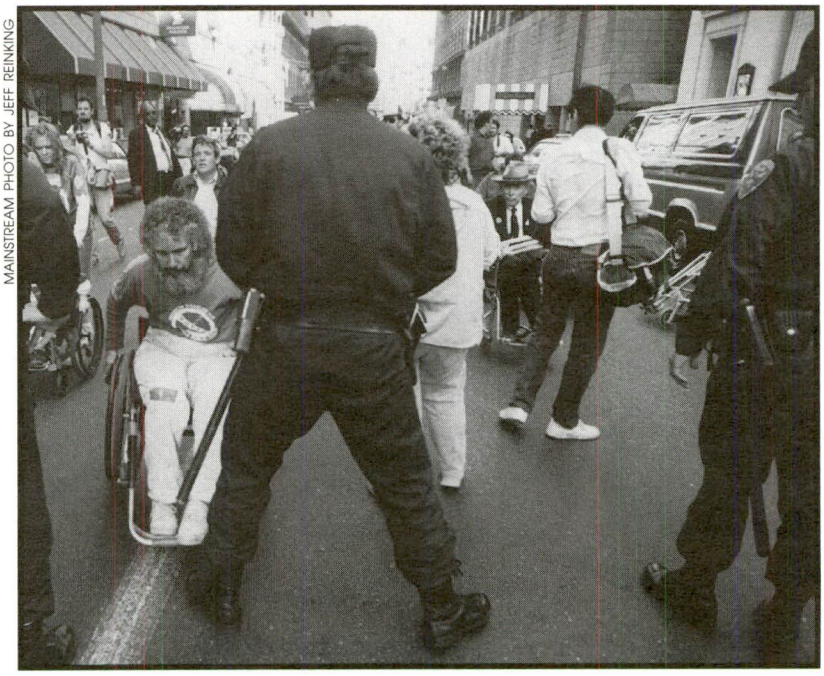
I made every fashionable mistake — alcohol, prescription drugs, womanizing, divorces, bad mouthing, big mouthing, big spending, bad parenting.

I have spent half a century struggling with personal addictions. That struggle continues today.

If I can be a soldier of empowerment, so can you.

You can do plenty! You have power! You are one unit of human society, just like Nelson Mandela. When you speak, society speaks. *When you change, society changes.*

You have a special power, a special responsibility, because in a society where the vast majority are spectators who rely on others to lead, your involvement with disability has made you an expert in empowerment.



MAINSTREAM PHOTO BY JEFF REINKING

San Francisco police block ADAPT protesters, including Justin Dart, right center, during 1987 demonstration.

Now, I have had some success. What is my secret? Looking back over my life, my truly meaningful contributions have been made when I have reached

out with love to empower others.

More important, I have never overcome any addiction, I have never done a single successful thing without the help of beautiful, strong, loving people, who reached out to empower me. My secret is you.

You can do it, too. You don't need anyone's permission. There is no reason to wait. Reach out today. Reach out with love and with your powerful truth. Reach out to your family, your neighbors, to the people in your office, your church, the people you meet on the street. Empower them to be leaders.

Get into politics as if your lives depended on it. They do. And the lives of our grandchildren. You can be a soldier of justice. You can be a revolution of one.

It's not going to be easy. Like me, you will have to struggle with stereotypes — in your mind, in the minds of others.

"Yeah, but the odds don't look so good. What if we don't win? All that sacrifice for nothing. Why not just relax and enjoy whatever part of the good life we can get?"

I have discovered a beautiful truth.

Whatever others may decide to do, there is no possibility of failure for those who choose to act for life. The dedicated, total effort of a single individual to struggle for the human dream is a monumental, irreversible victory for the person and for humanity. That is real happiness. That is the good life — not the big houses and big cars.

And you will never be alone. You will join a united, loving international family whose members include people the equal of any famous moral leaders past. You will become one with the eternal flow of struggle for more life, the struggle that characterizes human beings at their best.

I'm the luckiest man in the world, because I have had the profound happiness to work with the most beautiful people in the world on the most important project in the world.

Ours is the best movement in history. It's just not big enough!

Colleagues, our movement, our nation, humanity, stands at an historic crossroads.

Will humans unite to live the golden age of science and democracy that includes all?

Or will we, like all great cultures past, go down the road of disunity and self-indulgence to the land of might-have-been?

ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO



President Clinton awards the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, to Justin Dart, Jr. in a White House ceremony. After receiving the medal, on January 15, 1998 Dart immediately put it around Yoshiko's neck and said it belonged to all in the disability rights struggle.

Beloved colleagues in struggle, listen to the heart of this old soldier. Our lives, our children's lives, the quality of the lives of billions in future generations hangs in the balance. I cry out to you from the depths of my being. Humanity needs you! Lead! Lead! Lead the revolution of empowerment!

You have the power. You have the responsibility. I believe we're going to win because I believe in you. And I love you.

I love you so much.

Let us embrace one another. Let us lift our eyes to the dream.

Let us unite in action. Let us shout together, each in our own way. We have a dream. Join us in creating a society where every one wins. Join us in keeping the sacred pledge: "One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." ■

"We would rather love than fight. That's our world solution.

Because it is the current style, we call it revolution."

100 People Who Have Empowered Me — Justin Dart

I have never done a single successful thing without the help of beautiful, strong, loving people who reached out to empower me — hundreds of them.

Following is a list of 100. This is not my Top 100, but it is 100 beautiful human beings whose names might help some of you understand what I try to mean by empowerment. Some of them are well known, many are not. But these are people who have sacrificed for me, invested in me, counseled me, shouted at me, smiled at me — loved me. They have empowered me. They haved saved my life and made it worth living. I wish that you have such people in your life — and that you be such a person to empower others.

Yoshiko Dart.

A child in Vietnam, dying before my eyes, to convince me to stop participating in Holocaust and fight for life.

Peter Dart, my brother, who died to communicate the pain of discrimination and dependency.

Ruth Stephan, my mother, who lived to communicate the responsibility to expand life, and died to communicate the horror of discrimination.

Justin Dart, Sr., whose life and death communicated that with passion, democracy and self-discipline, nothing is impossible.

Konoka Izumi, representing all of my magnificent foster daughters and sons who gave their passion, their love and their time to empower me and all humans.

The Unknown Soldier, representing all patriots — from Valley Forge to Bosnia, from Abolition to Selma, Berkeley and ADAPT, who invested their lives, their blood, their money, their freedom to ensure my opportunity to be all that I can be — Semper Fi!

Max Arrell, Wade Blank, Elizabeth Boggs, Janine Bertram, Marca Bristo, Mac Brodie, George Bush, Phil Calkins, Judi Chamberlin, Allen Clark, Bill Clements, Bill Clinton, Tony Coelho, John Cooper, Bruce Curtis, Jane Dart, Fusako Dart, Jim Dickson, Rick Douglas, Joe Dusenbury, Henry Enns, Fred Fay, Dan Fisher, Lex Frieden, Suzanne Gaines, Mohandas Gandhi, Tom Gee, Nancy Griffin, Lucy Gwin, Tom Harkin, Paul Hearne, Judy Heumann, Rachel Hurst, Jay Johnson, Cyndi Jones, I. King Jordan, Bob Kafka, Evan Kemp, John Kemp, Martin Luther King, Yukari Kuwakado, John Lancaster, Gini Laurie, Abraham Lincoln, Gordon Mansfield, Paul Marchand, Joe Maschmeyer, Durward McDaniel, Gina McDonald, Ottmar Miles-Paul, Costa Miller, Sharon Mistler, Masami Morigami, Howard Moses, Yayoi Narita, Ralph Neas, Peg Nosek, Becky Ogle, Mary Jane Owen, Major Owens, Maria Cuprill Owens, Pat Pound, Ronald Reagan, Bradford Reynolds, Ed Roberts, Virginia Roberts, Debbie Robinson, Frances Ruegg, Liz Savage, Bill Scarborough, Natalie Shear, Bobby Silverstein, Mark Smith, Patty Smith, Bill Spencer, Max and Colleen Starkloff, John and Ineko Stephan, Bill Stothers, Kunio Takei, Shiro Tanida, James Templeton, Dick and Ginny Thornburgh, Rae Unzicker and other psychiatric survivors, Myrtle Walgreen, Nancy Ward, Joe Washington, Naoko Watanabe, Susan Webb, Lowell Weicker, Bill White, Patrisha Wright, and *YOU!* ■



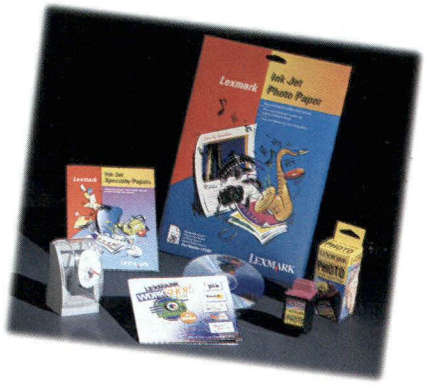
Justin Dart, Jr., talks with Ed Roberts, the founder of independent living, at a meeting in Washington, DC in 1991.



WORKS OF ART EVERY TIME YOU PRINT

LEXMARK™





Lexmark and Lexmark with diamond design are trademarks of Lexmark International, Inc., registered in the United States and/or other countries. © 1997 Lexmark International, Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective holders.

DAVID

Naming a child can be a tricky thing, even more so when the parents are concerned about pronunciation. That's where Aunt Dinah comes in.

By Denise Sherer Jacobson

"David, it's time to get ready. The carpool will be here any minute," I yelled, rolling from the kitchen through the living room, on my way to the bedroom where I could hear the pipe organ music, bleeps, and bonks from his Sega game.

"David, did you hear me? You've still got to put on your shoes and finish packing your backpack, David." Another bleep.

"David!"

It was times like these I had in mind when I first suggested the name to my husband Neil for our infant son ten years ago. Like any mother-to-be, I had my preferences when it came to choosing a name; I wanted one which would resonate with dignity, resound with melodic rhythm, and avoid being morphed into some horrendous nickname. My top priority, however, went to selecting a name that Neil and I could clearly pronounce, since we both often exerted a fair amount of effort spitting out our own names.

Our parents, of course, had named each of us in infancy, at the time not knowing we had been born with cerebral palsy, a permanent (but not life-threatening) disability which interferes with the messages sent from the brain hub to control voluntary movements. One of those voluntary movements affected, in both of us, involves speech.

From the time I was four until I graduated to high school I endured speech therapy three times a week with Mrs. Bobrick, an eccentric, gray-haired woman who had pursed red lips and wore paper hats on her head. I had to sit in front of the large rectangular mirror making faces at myself during warm-up exercises to work on breath control and tongue coordination.

Fastidious Mrs. Bobrick timed me with a stopwatch while I'd take deep breaths and hold each vowel sound as long as I could. She would also hold a candied tongue depressor an inch or so from my lips while my uncooperative tongue tried reaching it in all directions — north, south, east, and west.



Denise, Neil and David in 1984

Sometimes, she'd stick peanut butter on the roof of my mouth so I would have to nudge it off with the tip of my tongue; I cheated with my finger when she wasn't looking. I hated peanut butter!

Mrs. Bobrick drilled me on 'l' sounds, and 's' sounds, and those horrible 'th,' 'ks,' and 'sh' combinations.

I suspected Neil had gone through similar oral aerobics when he was young, and though I hate to admit it, those grueling workouts did pay off. We have the ability, now, to pronounce most words as distinctly as Lily Tomlin's Ernestine, the phone operator (without her annoying nasal embellishments), yet our words have that unhurried flow, perhaps half a beat slower than someone with a southern drawl.

Yet, for both Neil and me, speaking clearly and fluidly involves more than the ability to enunciate. It has a lot to do with energy and anxiety. When Neil gets tired, his rich, gravelly voice digresses into a mumble. When I'm wiped out at the end of the day, my words swirl into each other like ingredients blended together in a malted milk.

Nervousness will cause Neil to stutter and stammer at the beginning of a sentence, or with words starting with vowels, while when I'm anxious, my breath constricts in my chest so tightly that it barely allows my words to escape.

Introducing ourselves seems to create a nervous tension in both of us, making us wish, for that moment, we had names which would just trip off our tongues as easily as water overflowing into a spillway. Both our names contain a combination of sounds that require quick, subtle tongue dips and rolls.

1987





1996

Ironically, Neil and I can say each other's name without difficulty, but not our own; in person, we introduce one another — the definitive movements of our lips are a visual aide.

It's harder on the phone. Whenever we call to make restaurant reservations, Neil becomes a "Bob," while I change into a "Debra," just to keep it simple. I always hope we won't run into anyone we know in the presence of the maitre d' or hostess. It would surely cause us one of those embarrassing moments.

So, Neil and I approached the task of baby naming with an added consideration most couples don't worry about — choosing a name that would be easy to say. We couldn't ignore sentimentality, either; Neil and I have Jewish roots and according to tradition, a baby is named after a deceased relative to carry on that person's memory.

We weren't lacking in dead relatives — my mother and Neil's father among them — but all the names I could think of did not fit the practical requirements, or my particular preferences.

I gave it some thought while we were undressing for bed one night, since undressing gives me a lot of time to think. I hooked my index finger inside the collar of my turtleneck and stretched it up over my chin and grabbed a handful of the knitted material from behind then yanked it over my head. Shivering from the chilly air, I gave an involuntary snort and clamped my upper arms to my sides, bringing my wrist up to my mouth so I could grasp the knitted cuff with my teeth. I slid out one arm, and then the other. I let the turtleneck drop to the floor. I was hard on clothes!

Aunt Dinah!

My Great Aunt Dinah had lived across the courtyard from us when I was growing up and never had children of her own. She would dote on my sister and me as if we were little princesses, buying us fancy dresses with crinoline petticoats, tiny pinky rings with ruby and diamond chipped birthstones, and Betsy Wetsy Dolls.

Yet, with all her magnanimity, Aunt Dinah was a little hard to take; her love was, literally, suffocating. Her fleshy arms always engulfed us, pressing our faces into her oversized, bra-less bosom while she planted kisses in triplicate on top of our heads.

She reeked of the perfume she wore to mask, in vain, the stale odor of her incontinence. My sister and I would squirm away in loud protests, always bringing a teary, hurtful look to the old woman's hound dog eyes. All poor Aunt Dinah wanted from us was a little warmth and affection, yet it was so hard to give because she wanted it too much.

"My Aunt Dinah had no children." I said, looking at Neil in the mirror as I reached for my flannel nightgown. "She had a generous soul... maybe we could name the baby after her."

Neil raised his eyebrows. "You want to name him Dinah?"

"No," I laughed, "but we just have to come up with a name that begins with 'D'... Maybe David?"

"David," Neil repeated without a stammer or a stutter. He grinned. "David. I like it."

David, a nice, solid name: the name of a great biblical hero and king — who even slew a giant.

"David," I echoed easily. I pictured Aunt Dinah smiling down on me with tears in her eyes. It appeased a small amount of my childhood guilt.

Over the years, Neil and I have said "David" in a myriad of vocal tones emoting frustration, enchantment, annoyance, anger, exhaustion and love. We've had no difficulty introducing him to teachers, doctors, acquaintances, and new playmates in the park.

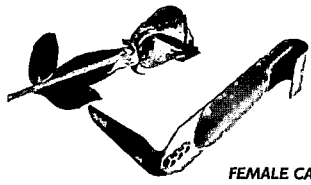
Whenever we make dinner reservations, now, we give David's name, even when he doesn't come along. I'm no longer worried about running into someone we know. I have a simple explanation: "David's our son," I'd say. "We keep him in mind wherever we go." ■

Denise Sherer Jacobson is a freelance writer.



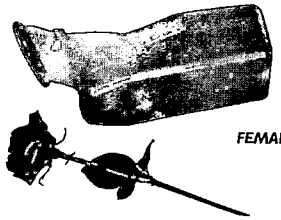
BABY JOGGER
P.O. Box 2189 • Yakima, WA. 98907• (509) 457-0925
www.babyjogger.com

A+ MEDICAL PRODUCTS
SELF CATHETERIZATION MADE EASY WITH
THE ASTA-CATH®



FEMALE CATHETER GUIDE

THE FEMINAL®



FEMALE URINAL

MAKES VOIDING IN A BEDPAN OBSOLETE

A+ Medical Products is dedicated to developing medical products that honor women and make a difference in the quality of their lives.

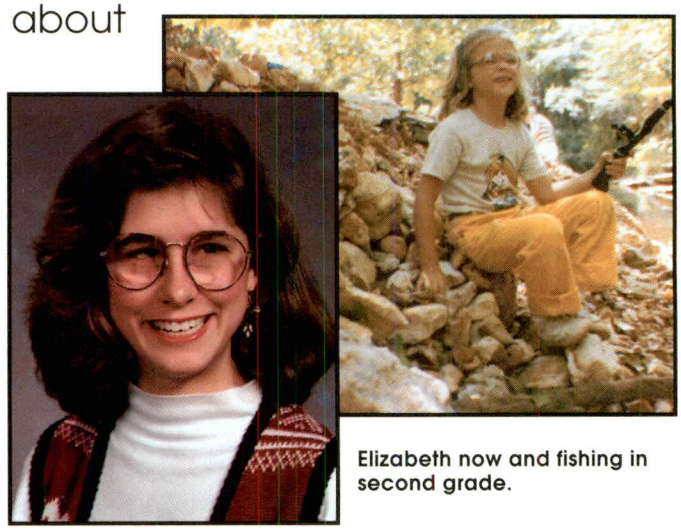
CALL TO ORDER: 1-888-843-3334
Visit our Web Site @
WWW.APLUSMEDICAL.COM



"...but I *can* see colors..."

Coming face to face with stereotypes about blindness, insecurity and schoolmates.

By Elizabeth Granderson



Elizabeth now and fishing in second grade.

A visitor to the Little Rock, Arkansas, School for the Blind in 1981 could not have helped but notice the grimy line of hand prints along the walls. Small visually impaired children not yet trained in mobility or cane travel often maneuvered through the building with one hand on the wall. Forrest Park Elementary, located five blocks south of my house, had no such marks on its white walls.

As a legally blind child, I had the right to attend either school.

At the School for the Blind, my limitations would have been anticipated with little need for me to articulate what I could see or do. No one would have mockingly asked me what was wrong with my eyes, commented about my cumbersome large-print text books or stared as I read them with my nose touching the page.

But my parents feared that this safe environment might have also fostered limited social skills, functional isolation, or even later fears about entering college or taking a job in the sighted world.

So I was one of the first visually impaired children to enroll in kindergarten at a regular public school in the Little Rock School District, and the trend toward mainstreaming has been growing ever since. This year approximately 630 visually impaired children are enrolled in regular public schools throughout Arkansas, while about 100 students attend the School for the Blind.

This path would prove to be the more difficult one as I was brought face to face with stereotypes about blindness, my own insecurities, and the need to communicate my needs and abilities to both peers and adults.

My visual ability was less than 20/400, and I wore tiny reading glasses with thick, dome-shaped lenses, but I illustrated my world constantly. My drawings had sharp lines and shapes, but the trees had no leaves and few branches (I had not seen them), and I had never thought of drawing strands of hair until I was older. My art reflected what I could see or, rather, what I understood about shading, perspective and detail.

It was the colors that were most important to me. I often recognized my playmates during recess by the color of their hair and jackets because I couldn't see much distinction in their faces.

In many ways, my school experiences were not unusual. I learned to read, played hop scotch and sang for my parents in Christmas productions. No one ever told me I couldn't do something unless it involved my safety.

Still, I was different.

Explaining to my classmates what I could and could not see was to become one of the first and most enduring obstacles I would face. Realizing this, my first vision itinerant teacher, Lou Parker, who adapted my course work and met with me once a day to monitor my progress, visited my kindergarten class, visual aids in hand, one day when I was absent. She explained to 25 or so five-year-olds what it meant to be legally blind: seeing no more at a distance of 20 feet with glasses than a person with normal sight can see at 200 feet.

But her visit had only a marginal impact on the school at large over the next few years. It was a hard concept for them to understand, so my peers observed and speculated. My limited vision was the result of congenital glaucoma, but the majority of people seemed to believed in only four types of visual impairment: near-sightedness, far-sightedness, total darkness and color-blindness. I was accused of each one.

It was also a hard concept for me to explain. After all, I had little concept of what my peers could see and could draw comparisons only after learning what "normal" sight was.

So we struggled together. They shoved small hands in my face, asking me if I could count their fingers. They asked me questions without hesitation. "Why does your right eye look blue?" they inquired. Or, when I squinted as the glaring sunlight shone on a metallic-white sky, "Why are your eyes closed?"

Their blunt questions fostered in me an increased self-consciousness and a desire to be as "normal" as possible. I wished my right eye looked normal. I hated to ask for help reading the overhead menu at McDonald's. I was reluctant to pull out my reading glasses in front of people I didn't know.

But in a traditional public school setting, I faced my insecurities early in an environment where my peers were not reluctant to say what they thought. Because of these daily challenges, I learned to accept my differences.

Self-consciousness became a social asset as well. I had a tendency to believe that if I couldn't see people watching me, they couldn't see what I was doing. Part of my education was to learn what acceptable behavior was. My teacher was not unaware when I tried to sneak my crayons out during math class, even if I couldn't see her glaring at me. I couldn't bite my fingernails or have any other "blind habits." My parents, teachers and inquisitive classmates didn't let me get away with anything.

Wanting to be as normal as possible translated into never using my blindness as an excuse for below-average work. This is now one of my most valuable assets. I wanted to compete in the sighted world, beginning with Forrest Park society. My vision itinerant teachers taught me how to compensate for my limitations. If the print was too small, I asked for a larger copy. If I couldn't see the film strip, I requested a closer seat. Although my methods were sometimes unconventional, the results could be above average.

But the best opportunities I found for closing the gap between me and my peers came when I raised others' expectations of me by demonstrating my ability to compete with them. School provided those opportunities. In first grade I won an illustrated poster contest on nutrition. I later won second place in two all-school science fairs. It was particularly fun surprising art teachers with my sketches. They were often the most anxious about whether or not I could participate in their visually demanding classes.

Sometimes I believed I had been successful at bridging the gap. But one experience during a third-grade reading hour showed me that being secure in my abilities and prepared to articulate to others both my strengths and my weaknesses would be a life-long process.

On that day I felt pretty big as I sat at my desk and swung my feet over the bright orange carpet. I adjusted the wooden book stand set up by my desk. It had a hinged back that supported it like a picture frame. There was a large-print book propped open in front of me, but the tray of the stand was full of crayons.

From behind my stand, I could hear Ms. White reading quietly to her basic reading group at the front of the class. I was almost certain that she was sitting in the middle of the semi-circular table and that her students were leaning on their elbows. I ignored the group until I realized she had called my name. I rose quickly and came to stand beside her, facing the group and my class.

Ms. White began to explain briefly the story they had just finished. It had been about a little blind girl who made something out of clay and wanted to paint it pink. Someone had told her that sunsets were pink and she liked that.

I suddenly realized that I was Ms. White's real-life application for her reading lesson. As she continued to talk about the story, and me, I was having an argument with myself. *Her intentions were good,* I thought, *and maybe my peers would understand me better if they could relate a story to my life.* But my lip threatened to quiver, and I noticed that I had been holding my breath.

Then I was aware of a pause. Silence. Ms. White has asked me a question, and I managed to say, "...but I *can* see colors..."

That was all.

I wanted to say more: That I could ride my bicycle around the block and jump off the high dive at Cammack Village Pool, and that I had seen hundreds of beautiful pink sunsets! I was not like the little girl in Ms. White's story. If only I could explain that this was not a fair comparison.

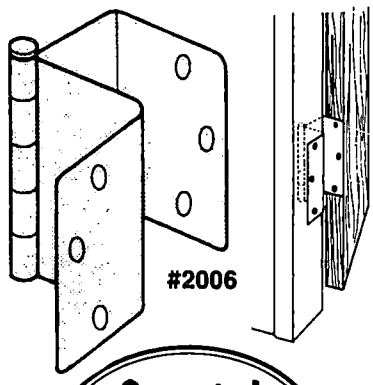
I knew that I would think of all the good things I could have said to them once I returned to my seat. Ms. White may have been trying to give me an opportunity to share with my classmates what my world looked like. At the moment, it threatened to blur with tears.

Finally, Ms. White said I could sit down again, and the orange carpet flew under me until I was behind my wooden book stand again. I fingered the blue and yellow crayons and wondered if the class was watching me. I could not tell, but I felt better imagining that my face was fairly well-hidden behind my big reading book with black and white pictures.

Experiences like these showed me that I couldn't hide my differences. But attending a conventional public school gave me the chance to prove my abilities. Living in the sighted world, subject to ignorance and discrimination, would always require this of me. I learned to cope, and also to succeed — without putting hand prints on the wall. ■

Elizabeth Granderson is a freelance writer.

SWING CLEAR HINGES



Special $9.95 ea.
*3 1/2" x 3 1/2"

Designed for Barrier Free Life
"Adds two inches to any doorway"
Many Sizes and Finishes Available

BY ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENTS

1-800-776-1461

The *most comfortable* keyboard.
The *most adjustable* keyboard.



COMFORT™
KEYBOARD SYSTEM

- The Comfort™ Keyboard System adjusts easily to the most comfortable position of each user.
- Maximum adjustability increases comfort, reduces fatigue.
- Three independently adjustable sections—left-hand, right-hand, numeric keypad.
- Each section rotates and tilts to any position—each user can type in their own most comfortable hand and wrist posture.

HEALTHCARE KEYBOARD COMPANY, INC.
N60 W14447 Kaul Avenue
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
Voice (414) 703-0170
Fax (414) 703-0169

True Confessions

She's a journalist.
She's disabled.
— But watch out.

She doesn't write stories to advance anybody's agenda.

By Kathi Wolfe



People trust the Psychic Friends Network more than me. I'm as beloved as an IRS auditor. But folks still want me to babble their spin and tout their agendas.

I'm not a politician. It's worse: I'm a journalist.

Unfortunately, this isn't my most heinous sin. I'm not only a writer, I try not to babble anybody's spin or tout their agendas.

Why am I telling you this? Because, recently a disability rights group demanded that I take part in a demonstration. "I can't," I said. "I'm a journalist."

"You're saying 'no' to us?" the group leader asked incredulously.

"That's right," I agreed.

"But you're going to write a story about us!" the caller insisted.

"I can't promise," I replied, adding, "If I did I'd have to report what the other side says."

"How can you say that?" my interrogator hissed, "You're disabled. You're one of our community!"

Sorry, Charlie. Excommunicate me from the fold!

In Politically Correct America, I must confess my transgressions: though legally blind, I don't report stories in order to advance the disability rights agenda.

(If you're squeamish, you might wish to skip this part. Here's where I delve into the sordid, devious workings of the reporting life.)

Let's get to my highest crimes and misdemeanors: I'm a reporter first and foremost. My stories are on subjects ranging from renowned photographer Gordon Parks to cloning to gay rights. I don't just write about disability issues.

This is my greatest heresy: I don't believe you have to be disabled to report on disability issues any more than you have to be a whale to write "Moby Dick!"

Reporters with disabilities have a unique perspective. But does this alone make them good reporters? I don't think so. If they're simply promoting the agendas of activist groups, they're advocates not journalists. And they won't be the next Edward R. Morrow if they don't strive for balanced reporting.

Good reporting and writing require imagination, accuracy, hard work, talent, a capacity for humor and interviewing skills. As is the case with able-bodied reporters, some disabled journalists have these attributes; others don't.

Few disabled reporters have written on disability issues as passionately, movingly and skillfully as such non-disabled journalists as Joseph P. Shapiro, author of *No Pity: People with Disabilities Forging a New Civil Rights Movement,* (Times Books); and Michael Winerip, author of *9 Highland Road: Sane Living for the Mentally Ill,* (Vintage).

Why are these journalists such good reporters? Because they're independent thinkers, who strive for balance and accuracy in their stories. They use their curiosity — their ability to observe, question and listen — to tell the stories of people who are different from themselves. They'd no more parrot the agendas of activists than nudists would promote buying clothes; yet, their reporting creates more understanding of disabled people than any disability rights screed.

Do I feel that discrimination against disabled journalists (subtle and overt) has too often been the rule in newsrooms across the country? Yes. Would I like to see more reporters with disabilities working in mainstream journalism? Of course.

But mainstream and journalism are the key words here! I want talented reporters (with disabilities) to have the opportunity to be mainstream journalists. My hope is that those of us who have the ambition, talent and drive to be journalists will have the chance to report on everything from economics to the environment and foreign affairs.

We should cover disability concerns only if that's our area of expertise and interest, not because we feel pressured to do so by disability activists. If we write disability stories, our reporting must be balanced and accurate. Our job is to report all sides of the story.

That means being willing to commit reportorial acts which many disability rights activists will view as heresies. HERESIES THAT DARE NOT SPEAK THEIR NAMES:

- Quoting sources who see problems in the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Giving equal weight to the views of both parents who insist their disabled kids belong in regular school classrooms and school board members who don't believe in inclusion.
- Telling the stories of disabled people who long to be "cured" as well as those who want no part of any "cure."

I'd love to stay and chat, but I've got stories to write. I can't wait to write the one about my crucifixion. ■

Kathi Wolfe is a regular contributor to Mainstream. She can be reached by email at Kathiwolfe@aol.com.



800•641•7824
or
703•264•9476

703•264•9480
TTY

Are you interested in careers or information on **special education and related services?**

Do you need free information on —

√ personnel preparation?
√ job search?
√ financial aid resources?
√ data on supply/demand?

Contact:

1920 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1589
ncpse@cec.sped.org www.cec.sped.org/ncpse.htm

Academic Software, Inc.



Offering Simple Single-Switch Solutions for your PC!

SS-ACCESS PC Package!
for single-function switch access for Windows and DOS,

WinSCAN *for multi-function single-switch access for Windows,*

and other great single-switch products.

Visit us on the Web at
http://www.acsw.com

Academic Software, Inc.
331 West Second Street
Lexington, KY 40507

off: 606-233-2332
fax: 606-231-0725
asistaff@acsw.com

A Structured Settlement was probably the right choice at the time of your accident, but circumstances change!

WE CAN PROVIDE A LUMP SUM FOR SOME OR ALL OF YOUR FUTURE PAYMENTS!

We Pay *CASH* For
Personal Injury & Other Insurance Settlements & Annuities.
We also buy Owner Held Mortgages & Lottery Winnings!
Call Toll Free:

1-800 -338-5815

Fax:1-800-258-7204

R & P CAPITAL RESOURCES, INC.

WHITE PLAINS, NY
Referrals Welcome!

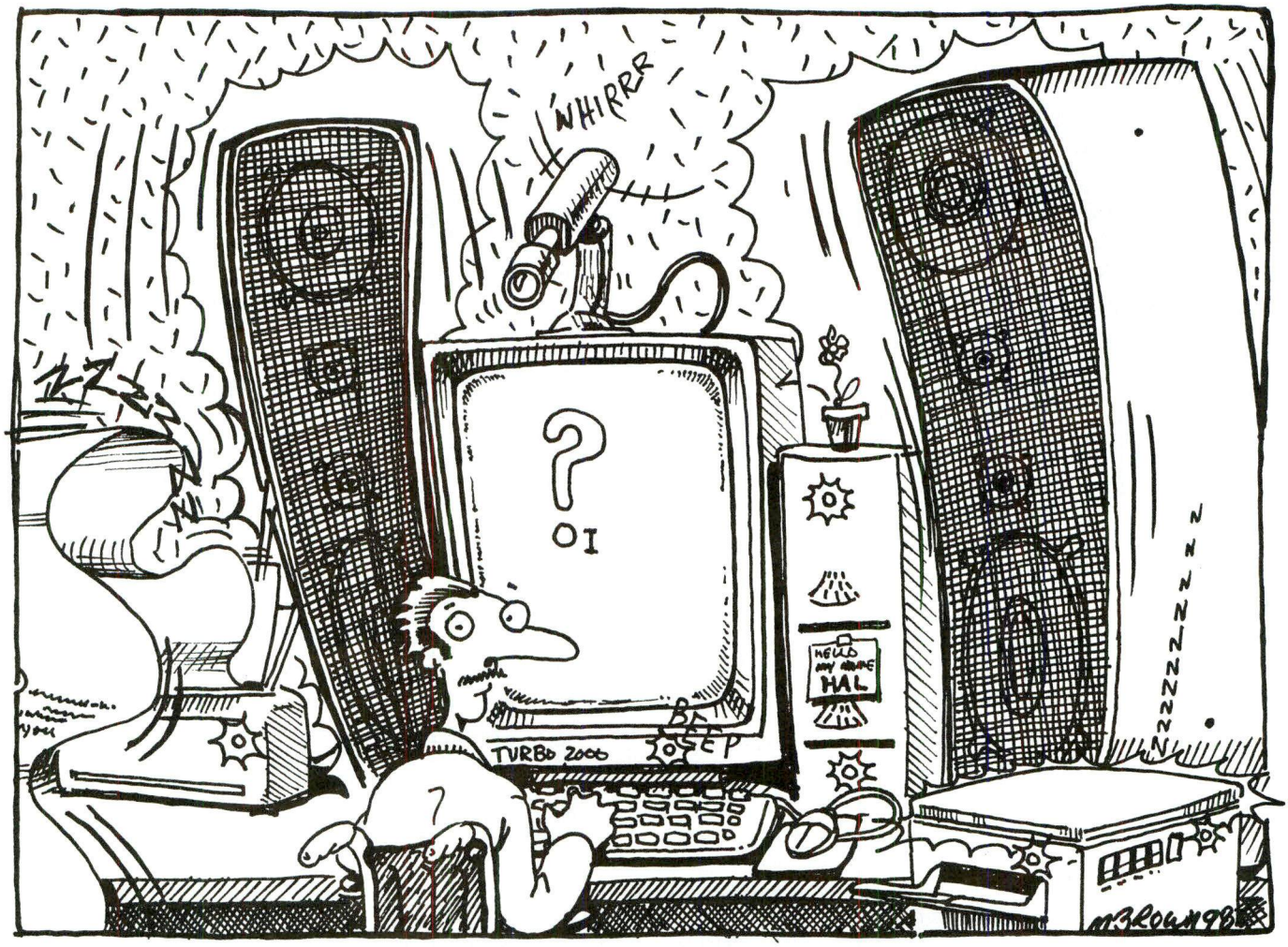


The Acacia Group®

Providing quality financial products and services for you, your family and your business.

7315 Wisconsin Avenue • Bethesda, MD 20814
tel: (301) 280-1277 • fax: (301) 280-1261
http://www.acaciagroup.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer committed to providing career opportunities for all people, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin or disability.



All Teched Up and No Place to Go

No kidding. Comedy writer is ready to write. . . as soon as he sharpens those pencils. . .

By Paul Ryan

My writing tools are sitting on my desk, all warmed up and ready. They're staring at me expectantly, saying "Come on, come on, give us something to do."

It's all the latest equipment, the best that money can buy. I can scan, fax, print, log on, browse, surf, email, zip, unzip, upload, download, draw, paint, animate, bold, italicize, design, publish, sort, label, tabulate — even type a letter. Everything I need to succeed as a writer (or any other profession for that matter) is at my disposal. There's only one thing I'm missing — ideas.

I used to be a top-notch scribe, before I was embraced (kidnapped is a better word) by technology. I actually wrote by hand. With ink pen and paper. I was very prolific. I filled countless notebooks with jokes, stories, and articles. I bought an old Smith Corona to make my work legible, and gave my finished product to the postman. My techno-pals scoffed at me. "Hey, Rip Van Winkle," they said, "Wake up, you're living in the dark ages." Finally, the peer pressure was just too great

Speech Recognition

Everybody's talkin', like the old Harry Nilsson song says. Speech recognition, to be specific. It's the hottest thing going these days as people want to talk to computers like they do on Star Trek and avoid repetitive stress problems. Or, maybe we just like to talk-talk. But for many people with disabilities, speech recognition can be as important as speech output is for persons who are blind or have vision impairments.

For all the heat in this burgeoning field, three companies — Dragon Systems, IBM and Lernout & Hauspie (who bought Kurzweil AI) — are at the center of things. Most products in the field use their technologies.

There are two major uses for speech recognition. One is designed for using your voice to make the computer perform repetitive tasks or functions — ordering the mouse to move here or there, going to web pages on the internet, etc. The other is designed to enable the user to dictate text with lots of vocabulary. Within these uses you can choose discrete speech, requiring a pause between each word, or continuous speech, permitting dictation in normal speaking voice without pauses.

The speech recognition field is changing rapidly, but the following resources will get you into the conversation.

SPEECH RECOGNITION:
Voice access for computer command & control, and text generation

Dragon Systems
320 Nevada Street
Newton, MA 02160
tel: (800) FOR DRAGON, (617) 965-5200
fax: (617) 527-0372
web: www.dragonsys.com
• *PC and MAC*

IBM Special Needs Systems
11400 Burnet Road
Austin, TX 78758
tel: (800) 426-4832
tty: (800) 426-4833
web: www.ibm.com/sns
• *PC only*

Lernout & Hauspie Speech Products
52 Third Avenue
Burlington, MA 01803
tel: (800) 380-1234, (781) 203-5000
fax: (781) 238-0986
web: www.lhs.com
• *PC only*

SPEECH RECOGNITION:
Miscellaneous

Edmark Corporation
6727 185th Avenue NE
Redmond, WA 98052
tel: (800) 691-2985, (425) 556-8400
fax: (425) 556-8998
tty: (425) 556-8402
web: www.dearparents.com
• *Reading program for children with voice access control and command.*

Quartet Technology
11 School Street
N. Chelmsford, MA 01863
tel: (508) 692-9313
fax: (508) 251-4951
web: www.qtiusa.com
• *Voice control and command for Quartet products only.*

Voisys International
34 Linnell Circle
Billerica, MA 01821
tel: (978) 663-4980
fax: (978) 667-8561
web: www.voisys.com
• *Voice recognition software for windows: command and control only (no text generation).*

RESOURCES

Alliance for Technology Access
2175 E. Francis Boulevard, Suite L
San Rafael, CA 94901
tel: (800) 455-7970, (415) 455-4575
fax: (415) 455-0654
tty: (415) 455-0491
web: www.ataccess.org
• *Non-profit organization which provides information and equipment through nationwide centers.*

Dreamms for Kids
273 Ringwood Road
Freeville, NY 13068-9618
tel: (607) 539-3027
fax: (607) 539-9930
web: www.dreamms.org
• *Non-profit information clearinghouse and monthly newsletter for assistive technology for kids with disabilities.*

Edmark Corporation
6727 185th Avenue NE
Redmond, WA 98052
tel: (800) 691-2985, (425) 556-8400
fax: (425) 556-8998
tty: (425) 556-8402
web: www.dearparents.com
• *Online resource for parents who have questions about learning and technology which includes a "special needs" section.*

National Lekotek Center
2100 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201
tel: (800) 366-7529
fax: (847) 328-5514
web: www.lekotek.org
• *Non-profit regional "CompuPlay Centers" for disabled kids which focus on computer learning through computer play.*

ORCCA Technology
317 S. Ashland Avenue, #B
Lexington, KY 40502
tel: (606) 268-1635
fax: (606) 268-2595
email: orcca@mis.net
• *CD "video" of high-tech and low-tech assistive technology. Includes information on voice recognition.*

Pugliese, Davey & Associates
5 Bessom Street, Suite 175
Marblehead, MA 01945
tel: (617) 639-1930
fax: (617) 631-9928
• *Assistive computer consultants for consumers and professionals.*

Speech Technology Magazine
43 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897
tel: (203) 834-1430
fax: (203) 834-7657
web: www.speechtechmag.com
• *"The Magazine of Applied Speech Technology."*

Special Needs Project
3463 State Street, Suite 282
Santa Barbara, CA 93105-2603
tel: (800) 333-6867, (805) 962-8087
fax: (805) 962-5087
email: books@specialneeds.com
• *Publications on disability issues and products, including technology and access to technology.*

Worklink Innovations
2566A Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94704
tel: (510) 848-8363
fax: (510) 848-7322
web: www.worklink.net
• *Computer consultant and retailer for persons with disabilities.*

CONFERENCES

"Technology and Persons with Disabilities"
March 17-21, 1998
The 13th Annual CSUN Center on Disabilities Conference at the Los Angeles Marriott, California.
tel: (818) 677-2578 v/tty/message
fax: (818) 677-4929
web: www.csun.edu/cod/
• *Assistive technologies for people with disabilities and special education, including the Internet and the World Wide Web. With over 200 exhibit stations and 300 presentations and demonstrations.*

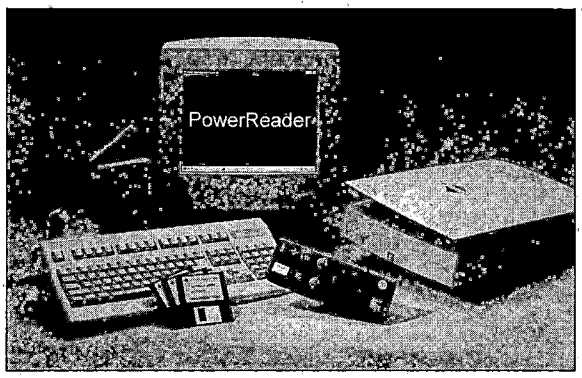
"ASAT '98"
June 16-18, 1998
The Advanced Speech Applications and Technologies 1998 Conference & Exposition at the Fairmount Hotel in San Jose, California.
tel: (800) 331-5706, (218) 723-9130
fax: (218) 723-9122
web: www.callvoice.com
• *Includes developers and marketing sessions, networking opportunities, end-user in-hall sessions and more than 40 exhibits.*

"AVIOS '98"
September 15-17, 1998
The 17th Annual International Voice Input/Output Systems Applications Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose, California.
tel: (408) 323-1783
web: www.avios.com
• *An interactive forum for industry leaders, students, systems developers, business managers and users who are actively involved in the field of voice processing.*

"Closing The Gap"
October 22-24, 1998
At the Radison South Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota.
tel: (507) 248-3294
fax: (507) 248-3810
web: www.closingthegap.com
• *Computer technology in special education and rehabilitation.* ■

PowerReader™ Assistant Now Shipping

"...the most unique innovation in document scanning technology to come along in years."



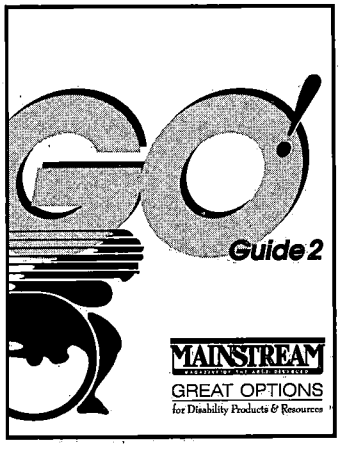
The uniquely shaped buttons and knobs of the Control Panel for PowerReader Assistant make it easy for anyone to scan a document without knowing any PC commands.

Now reading printed text electronically is easier than ever. Although the PowerReader Assistant installs on your own Windows® 95 PC, the unique Control Panel with one-touch functions requires no computer commands in order to scan and read almost any printed document.

Telesensory products are designed and manufactured in the USA and are backed by comprehensive technical support. For more information about Telesensory products, call 800-286-8484.

Telesensory®

Telesensory Corporation • 520 Almanor Ave., CA 94086
Tel: 408-616-8700 • Fax: 408-616-8719 • Email: info@telesensory.com
Visit our web site: http://www.telesensory.com



LOOKING FOR MORE PRODUCTS?

ORDER YOUR GO! Guide 2

This exclusive guide includes reviews & surveys of: Products, Books, and Services — *plus Tips, Tricks & Techniques to improve your life and lifestyle.*

VISA MasterCard Send $8.95 (plus $3.50 s&h), along with your name, address and phone number to: MAINSTREAM, PO Box 370598, San Diego, CA 92137-0598.

MAINSTREAM MAGAZINE OF THE ABLE-DISABLED *The Leading News, Advocacy & Lifestyle Magazine for People with Disabilites*

— I gave in and bought a computer. Not the latest one, just enough to get by. A glorified word processor. But, hey, that's all I'll ever need. Yeah, right. I didn't realize it at the time, but I was on a slippery slope. You know the one I'm talking about — the road to upgrade.

It's outfitted with dictation software so advanced, that when I put on the headset, it reads my very thoughts and types them on the page.

Of course, I couldn't mail out my new computerized work, I had to have a fax. And I needed a better printer. Work smarter not harder. Well, my production immediately went down. I wasn't lazy, mind you, it's just now I spent more time thinking about new equipment to buy than I did coming up with subjects to write about. Every time the latest piece of technology came out, I couldn't work until I had it. But, now that I recognize the problem, I can do something about it — I'll get a bigger hard drive.

My mind is as blank as my computer screen. I don't know what's wrong. My new 52 gig quantum SCSI drive freed up enough space for me to write the great books of the 20th-century ten times over. So, am I creating great works of literature or at least writing a few silly jokes? Nope. I just spent all afternoon downloading pictures of nude females from the Internet. How can I get myself back on track? A faster modem, that'll do the trick.

It's not my fault I have techno-block. Blame it on the Virginia Department of Rehab Services DRS. When I went through their system, they sought to further my writing career by buying me a brand-new state-of-the-art computer. This thing has more RAM than a billy goat, enough storage space to hold the Spruce Goose and the Queen Mary, and enough mega-hertz power to outrun a

Lamborghini. It's outfitted with dictation software so advanced, that when I put on the headset, it reads my very thoughts and types them on the page. That's not completely true, but it's pretty darn close. I don't even have to type, I just speak and it follows my every command. So, armed with my just-added US Robotics 56K modem, now I'm finally ready to crank out side-splitting articles, nail-biting novels, edge-of-your-seat screenplays, right? Wrong. Not without some accessories. As soon as I get a new fax, new scanner, and a color printer, I'll be ready to go.

I'm a comedy writer, it's my job to poke fun at things. Somewhere out there, are thousands of topics just begging to be ridiculed (like my lack of ideas). And as soon as I do, my new Brother MFC 1950 Fax/Scanner/Color Printer will scan it, fax it, and print it in 1200 dpi photo-quality color. Why can't I come up with anything? I love to write political satire. There's enough stupidity in our nation's capital alone to keep me occupied for the rest of my working life — even without Dan Quayle. I'll give it a try:

Mayor Barry has promised a crackdown on crime (pun intended). He's told the police department to raid every hotel room he checks into.

Ted Kennedy announced he's giving up drinking. He says it's time to quit when he can't even set a bad example for his nephews.

What do you think? You're right — I'd be a lot funnier with a bigger monitor.

I can't go back to being a scrivener. Muscular dystrophy has taken its toll on my motor neurons to the point where I can barely sign my name. So I'm wedded to technology. Just like any other marriage, I love what I've got, but I'm always on the lookout for something better. My NEC 17-inch super VGA multisync monitor is the envy of all my friends, and I have no more excuses not to go full speed ahead, but. . .if only I had a faster Pentium chip, bigger stereo speakers, more graphics, a new script writing program, and a secretary to sit on my lap (that's the first good idea I've had in a long time), I could write a best seller that would win the Pulitzer Prize. Don't you think?

I'll just get more RAM. ■

Paul Ryan is a freelance writer.

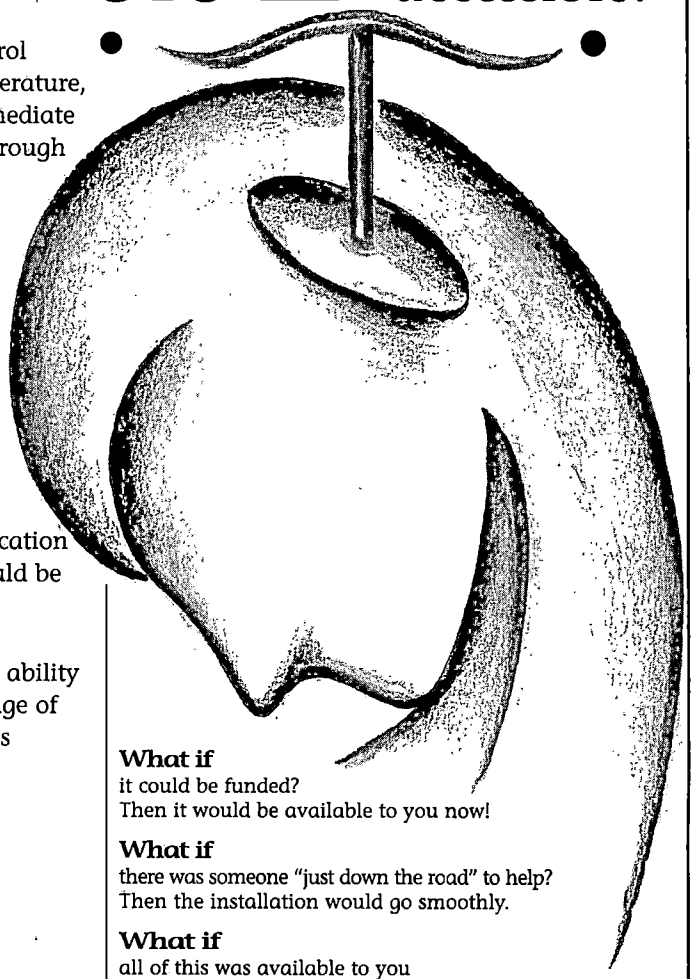
What if computers were accessible?

You could control the lights, temperature, doors–your immediate environment through simple voice commands.

You would have access to information, products, and services through the Internet.

Your communication capabilities would be enhanced.

You'd have the ability to take advantage of job and business opportunities.



What if it could be funded? Then it would be available to you now!

What if there was someone "just down the road" to help? Then the installation would go smoothly.

What if all of this was available to you anywhere, through one company?

MADENTA

Enabling extraordinary people to do ordinary things

Contact us at 1-800-661-8406 for the Madenta Accessibility Center nearest you, or visit our web site at www.madenta.com See us at CSUN, booth 70, 79.

ACCESS Designed R.V.'s
Custom Built for you!



We specialize in all Recreational Vechicles
• Motor Homes • Travel Trailers
Call or write Bill McGeehan or Bob Works
4771 Bayou Blvd. Ste. 215
Pensacola, FL 32503
888-505-7701
web site: www.sites.gulf.net/accessdesign

LOOKING FOR PRODUCTS?
Check links to advertisers!
online MAINSTREAM
MAGAZINE OF THE ABLE-DISABLED
www.mainstream-mag.com

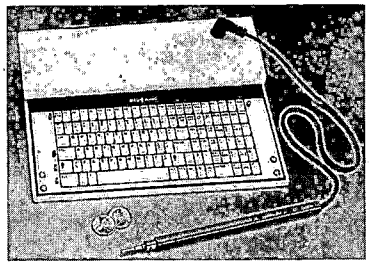
Use a Computer Effortlessly—
To Work, Play, or Surf the Internet

The Magic Wand Keyboard

The Magic Wand Keyboard gives you full access to any computer, using little or no hand movement and no strength.

This miniature keyboard has *zero-force* keys that work with the slightest touch of a wand.

In just seconds, you can be using any computer—and a mouse. No training or installation is needed.



30-day money-back guarantee. IBM/Macintosh compatible.

In Touch Systems
11 Westview Road ◆ Spring Valley, NY 10977
800-332-MAGIC
Visit our Web site at: www.magicwandkeyboard.com

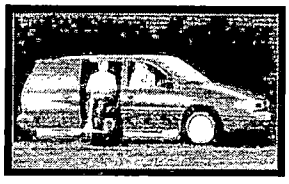
RAINBOW WHEELS

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
RENTAL VANS
"The freedom to go everywhere!"

We offer:
Rentals Available: Daily • Weekly • Monthly • or Longer
Quality Used Vans available For Sale

Full Size and Mini Vans

Around the Country, Serving:
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Florida
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Michigan
- Ohio
- South Carolina
- Tennessee



For information, Contact us at
800-910-VANS
FAX: (517) 439-1089
http://www.RAINBOWWHEELS.COM
e-mail: RAINBOW@DMCI.NET

"Comfortable, Convenient, Practical & Economical"

Index of Advertisers

A+ Medical Products 35
Abilities Expo '98 5
Acacia Group 39
Academic Software, Inc. 39
Access Design Inc. 43
Accessible Environments 37
ALVA Access Group 15
American Thermoform Corp. 14
APH American Printing House for the Blind 12
Arlington County, VA 44
Assistive Technology '98 45
Baby Jogger 35
The Braun Corporation 48
Core Funding Group, LLC 12
Everest & Jennings 4
Exide Electronics 44
GW Micro Inc. 13
Health Care Keyboard 37
In Touch Systems 44
Innocomp 11
Invacare Corporation 16
Lexmark International 33
Liberty Mutual 13
Lubidet USA Inc. 7
Madenta 43
MAINSTREAM *subscriptions* 12
MAINSTREAM *online* 43
National Clearinghouse for Professionals in Special Education 39
NCM Consumer Products 7
Northrop Grumman 10
Prentke Romich Co. 8
R & P Capital 39
R. D. Equipment, Inc. 11
Rainbow Wheels 44
SCAN Medical Co., Inc. 8
Sighted Electronics 47
TASH 15
Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical 44
Telesensory 42
TVI Technologies for the Visually Impaired 8
Wheelers Accessible Van Rentals . . . 8
WorkLink—ADA Solutions 2

Employment Opportunities

EXIDE ELECTRONICS

Exide Electronics
■
2727 Kurtz Street
San Diego, CA 92110

EEO BY CHOICE

TELEDYNE RYAN AERONAUTICAL

Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical is an equal opportunity employer. For information on current job openings call (619) 260-5425 or send resumes to Staffing Administrator, 2701 Harbor Drive, San Diego, California 92101.

Arlington County, Virginia
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

24-HR Jobline
703/228-3363
Employment Information Desk
703/228-3500
TTY Users
703/228-4613
Job Listing & Application
www.co.arlington.va.us/pers
EOE/Reasonable Accommodation Upon Request

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 46 ESCONDIDO CA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

MAINSTREAM
MAGAZINE OF THE ABLE-DISABLED
PO BOX 370598
SAN DIEGO CA 92137-9894

Calendar

e yourself with STREAM!

: The title, date, time, loca- ntact person and phone r — 12 weeks prior to your We'll help expose your event ace available basis.

: MAINSTREAM, Calendar 973 Beech Street, San CA 92102.

lendar@mainstream-mag.com

chnology and Persons With es. The 13th Annual CSUN ce at the Los Angeles Marri- ornia. Contact: Dee Heller, -2578 v/tty/message, (818) 677- or web: www.csun.edu/cod/

sabled, but Enabled and Em- — Building Common Ground ext Millennium, the Fourth Bi- nference on disability issues. At n Four Points Hotel in Roches- ork. Contact: Dr. David Du Bois, 3884, x113; (716) 473-1949 fax. l to disabled@sescva.esc.edu, SUNY Empire State College, alley Center, 8 Prince St., Roch- 4607.

ols for Life Expo, '98. Spon- CIL, HATTS and the Commis- rsons with Disabilities. At the Center Exhibition Hall in Hono- aii. Contact: Sharon Fountain 3072.

April

5-7: **Missouri Assistive Technology Exposition and Conference: "Power UP 98."** At the Holiday Inn Select in Columbus, Missouri. Contact: MATP (816) 373-5193/V, (816) 373-9315/tty. Or send email to matpmo@qni.com.

23-25: **Pursue the Challenge: Leadership Conference for Self-Advocates,** 1998 People First International Conference. Egan Convention Center. Contact: People First of Anchorage: (907) 272-8270 v/tty, (907) 274-4802 fax or email: aypplfa@uaa.alaska.edu.

24-26: **Abilities Expo in New Jersey** displays products and services for people with disabilities. In Edison, New Jersey. Contact: (203) 256-4700.

May

6-7: **Tapping Worker Potential Through Technology,** President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. New Orleans Marriott Hotel. Contact: The USDA Graduate School, (202) 314-3490 v/tty, (202) 479-6801 fax.

29: **Assistive Technology '98** Conference and Vendor Fair for People with Disabilities. From 9am to 5:30 pm at the World Trade Center in Boston, Massachussetts. Contact: (617) 737-9495/v, (617) 737-0081/tty, or web: www.matp.org/AT98.html.

29-June 1: **Planting Seeds for Tomorrow, International Parent to Parent Conference.** At the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Georgia International Convention Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Contact: Cathy W. Spraetz, (770) 451-5484. ■

T Assistive Technology '98

. . . AT work • AT school • AT home • AT play

ference and Vendor Fair for People with Disabilities
Friday, May 29, 1998, 9:00AM - 5:30PM
World Trade Center, Boston, Massachusetts

00 exhibits of simple devices and high-tech products – dapted toys and kitchen utensils to computers and vehicles

r people with disabilities, family members, senior citizens, ducators, service providers, and technology developers

New feature – funding clinic with information and referral to funding sources for assistive technology

98 Information: 617-737-9495 (voice), 617-737-0081 (TTY), at@conventures.com (e-mail). Visit our web site at http://www.matp.org/AT98.html



A great model of active citizenship

By William G. Stothers

I have known Joe Stern for nearly 20 years. He looks the same today as he did when I met him. He came into the newsroom of the newspaper here where I was working.

Joe came in often, in fact, lobbying and advocating for his causes. They centered on human rights, labor and senior citizen issues and the need to hold people in power to account. Joe is unflagging as he beats the drums for his issues.

In his 67 years "as a foot-soldier in the progressive movement, never as a leader, but always as a trooper," Joe has walked thousands of picket lines, distributed billions of leaflets, attended thousands of demonstrations, and had millions of bull sessions. And a lot more.

> "If people are ready to act, they join in and the protests become larger and larger until they are finally irresistible."

Two months from now, in May, Joe Stern will turn 88 — maybe. A year ago, he was told he has inoperable, untreatable terminal cancer. He decided not to look for a cure, or even spend time taking tests. Instead, he chose to make the most of the rest of his life for his causes.

In fact, Joe is making the end of his life an event to bring people together once again to focus on forging a people's movement to work for improving people's lives.

Not only did I meet Joe Stern in the newsroom of my newspaper, I met him at meetings of our local disability community. Whether it was health care reform, or campaign finance reform — two big issues for Joe recently — Joe was there urging us to join with senior citizen groups and others in order to achieve a bigger, stronger, more powerful voice.

Joe doesn't always succeed, of course. But he keeps coming back with his message:

"There is only one way real change occurs: people bring it about. It starts with small protests. If people are ready to act, they join in and the protests become larger and larger until they are finally irresistible. Once they reach this stage, we get legislation. That is how we freed the slaves, won women the right to vote, got labor the right to organize and every other social advance in history. Every one was resisted by the powers that be."

That quote is from a pamphlet Joe has just published called "Toward Building a People's Movement." He wanted to put down the ideas he has developed from his 67 years of experience in the struggle for change. I don't agree with everything he says. But I respect and admire him greatly. He is a wonderful model of active citizenship.

At the time I first met Joe, he qualified for retirement, a time to take life easier after years of work and community involvement. But that was not for Joe. He burns with determination to make a better world where ordinary people are valued and upheld.

Joe's method is not slash-and-burn revolution. It is good old-fashioned organizing. He's doing that until he dies, literally.

Joe's passion reminds me of Justin Dart, Jr., whose story graces many pages of this issue of MAINSTREAM. They are both men full of life. They struggle. They put their bodies on the line. And they have a presence that exudes both power and a certain peacefulness.

They both honor our collective strength and prod our individual power and responsibility to make a difference.

Despite obstacles and disabilities these men of vastly different backgrounds march the same road together, even though they have never met.

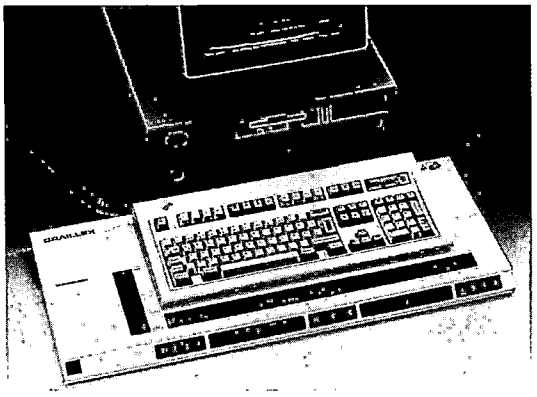
It would be easy to feel put to shame by their example, to beg off for lack of energy, time or skills. Or interest. It is easier to stay home and watch TV. I can understand. I've done that myself in times past. Some of us need all of our time just to survive, make a living, raise a family. Or, maybe that's just what we tell ourselves.

I have worked in places where it was clear that some of my colleagues had, as they say, quit and stayed. They really hated being there but they would not leave. It is a kind living death, being unhappy, unproductive, stuck. Being afraid to take a chance, to leave, to really live. We all know people like that.

Disability has a nasty habit of letting the air out of a person's balloon. It's tempting to give up on life, to quit and stay, counting all the things we *can't* do.

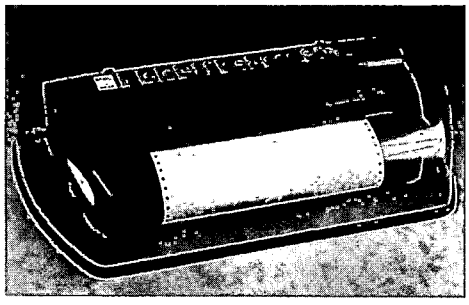
Neither Joe nor Justin would have any of that. Sure life's a struggle, a real bitch more often than not. But, hey, if we join together, maybe we can make it better. See what you can do, they say, it is great work to be part of. Change the world. Make Joe happy. ■

Imagine Visualizing a Computer Screen Top to Bottom. STOP IMAGINING



Papenmeier leaves nothing to the imagination with their two dimensional braille display. No longer imagining your cursors location on a computer screen. Know where the page begins and where the page ends and the location of the information in between.

Papenmeiers 2 dimensional braille displays give blind computer users easy access to the computer screen. A sighted computer user has access to information on a computers screen vertically as well as horizontally. Papenmeiers 2 dimensional braille displays give blind users a conventional 40 or 80 cell Braille display as well as a second vertical display with 4 dots per line, which show an extensive status of the complete computer screen. No more guesswork. Sighted Electronics makes this innovative product available to you.



Sighted Electronics Markets A Full Range Of Braille Embossers

From the low cost, durable, portable, Porta Thiel Braille Embosser, or it's Interpoint version. Weighing in at under 10 pounds with a carry handle incorporated into its design the Porta Thiel is the most portable, affordable, embosser available. Starting at under $2000 for the single side version and at $2835 for an interpoint. The portable "Porta Thiel" is the perfect solution for the mobile active student or professional who needs to be able to access braille at home, work, or on the go.

For speed with proven reliability at an affordable price, the Index Basic and Everest are the latest innovative designs in interpoint braille. The re-designed Everest's paper feed system gives braille users the ability to buy card stock paper at the local office supply store. If the conventional tractor feed system is what you want the Basic S or Basic D is efficiency at about 300 pages per hour. Thiel commercial grade, production Braille Embossers, the Bax 10 at 800 interpoint pages of braille per hour or the Impacto at 600 interpoint pages per hour.

For the full line of braille products or the dealer nearest you call
Sighted Electronics at (800) 666-4883 or visit us on the internet at **http://village.ios.com/~sighted/**

SIGHTED ELECTRONICS
BRAILLE PRODUCT SPECIALISTS

Sighted Electronics 464 Tappan Road Northvale, NJ 07647 Phone 201 767-3977 FAX 201 767-0612

B R A U N



Introducing *your* 1997 Entervan®

THE ULTIMATE REFINEMENT

BRAUN 1972-1997 25th ANNIVERSARY

The Braun Entervan® is the culmination of 25 years' experience in building personal mobility products.

When you buy a Braun Entervan, you're not just buying somebody's new idea – you're buying a quarter century worth of experience, knowledge and insight in the manufacture of wheelchair accessible minivans.

The Braun Entervan has been crash tested and certified to meet or exceed all applicable requirements of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) and is backed by our Three-Year Worry-Free Warranty.

We've produced a new video that describes all the updated features and allows you to "view and compare." Call us for a copy.

We know what will make you happy, and we're pleased to present our 25th Anniversary Entervan.

Visit one of Braun's 350 All-Star Distributors nationwide for a close-up examination and demonstration of its many features.

THE BRAUN CORPORATION.

"Providing Access to the World"

1-800-THE LIFT

International Corporate Hdqrs: P.O. Box 310 Winamac, IN 46996 USA
1-800-843-5438 (219) 946-6153 FAX: (219) 946-4670



Fairfield, NJ USA Clearwater, FL USA Huntington Beach, CA USA

B-90-293 ©1997 The Braun Corp. Image Litho USA