



May, 1984

Austin, Texas

Media Conference Revolves Around New Show "Tell Them I'm a Mermaid"

The media conference is a new part of the Barbara Jordan Awards program. The program is designed to inform the media of disability issues and to suggest ways of improving communications about disabled persons.

Actress Victoria Ann-Lewis, Los Angeles, will present a special workshop at 1:30 p.m. on June 22 at the Hyatt Regency, Austin. Ann-Lewis' workshop revolves around — **A Television Breakthrough** — "Tell Them I'm a Mermaid", a musical-theatre documentary illuminating the private world of seven extraordinary women with physical disabilities. Much of the material for the show was originally developed by the women under the guidance of Victoria Ann-Lewis as part of Mark Taper Forum workshop for disabled actors.

"I think you're about to see something that may forever change the way you view — yourself".

introduced by — Jane Fonda

Daring and honest, the seven women use their personal experience to demonstrate their refusal to accept society's stigmas about disabilities and to challenge people to join them in rejecting limitations.

Disability simulations will follow the workshop, allowing participants to experience what it might be like to be a disabled individual.

Everyone interested in accurate and effective public communication, regardless of their media, will find this workshop helpful in pro-

jecting fresh and accurate images of disabled persons.

At 7:00 p.m. the evening of June 22, the media will be recognized for excellence in the portrayal of disabled persons. The awards are named for Barbara Jordan, a great stateswoman and champion of human rights.

The banquet cost is \$20.00 per person. There will not be a charge for the media conference. All individuals planning to attend must be pre-registered. Each participant will receive a registration package the day of the event. Registration packets may be picked up in the Foyer of the Texas Ballroom anytime between 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

The Hyatt Regency Austin will be accepting payment for the banquet and registration forms for the Conference. For additional program information or registration forms contact TGCDP: Cindy Counts (512) 445-8471 or Jo Farmer (512) 445-8275. ■



"Don't you wish that you could be disabled?" sing the seven remarkable women who appear in "Tell Them I'm a Mermaid." (L to R: Italia Dito, Bree Walker, Peggy Oliveri, Victoria Ann-Lewis, Nancy Becker Kennedy, Kathy Martinez and Celeste White.)

Awards

Goldman's Article Places First

Del Rio High School junior, Jessica Goldman, was cited April 9 for her award-winning journalism article on disabled people in the work environment. Goldman's article was selected for first place honors in the state in the annual "Ability Counts" Journalism contest for high school students. Sponsors of the national contest are the Disabled American Veterans, AFL-CIO, and President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (PCEH). Sponsors presented awards in a ceremony Monday afternoon at Del Rio High School.

Goldman received a plaque, medal, and \$1,000 college scholarship from the state Disabled American Veterans. The state AFL-CIO presented her with a check to cover travel expenses to attend the PCEH annual conference this spring in Washington, D. C. A representative of the Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons awarded Goldman a certificate from the PCEH.

The Great American Reserve Life Insurance Company provided a check to partially defray travel ex-

penses for Goldman's sponsoring teacher, Betty Evins, to accompany Goldman on the trip. Evins also received a plaque from the Disabled American Veterans.

Goldman's article will be judged in national competition against the

contest winners in other states. The national winner will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship for college. National competition results will be announced at the PCEH annual conference May 2-4, in Washington, D.C. ■



Jessica Goldman receives honors as top journalist. Attending the ceremony were (L to R) Charles Aultman, DAV State Commander; Jessica Goldman; Goldman's teacher, Betty Evins; AFL-CIO representative Manuel Ysaguirre.

Pilot Club Honors Disabled Doctor

Dr. Jo Ann Ford of Georgetown received the Pilot Club International (PCI) "Handicapped Professional Woman of the Year" award in a ceremony April 14 in Houston. Sidney Braquet, a member of the Governor's Committee, presented the award at a banquet at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel as part of the Texas District PCI annual convention. Dr. Ford was cited for her professional achievements and service to the Georgetown community including her volunteer work with March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society, Cub and Girl Scouts and many others. She is principal of Central Middle School and received her doctorate in Edu-

cation from Southwest Texas State University in 1981. Dr. Ford has had a progressive disease of the eye since age 10 and is now legally blind. ■

Now Seeking Awards Nominations

Now is the time to give praise where praise is due! The Governor's Committee will take nominations for outstanding persons or organizations in the following categories through July 13, 1984:

- ★ Disabled Texan of the Year
- ★ Physician of the Year
- ★ Employer of the Year
- ★ Governmental Agency of the Year
- ★ Public Employee of the Year
- ★ Governor's Citation for Meritorious Service

Award recipients in each category will receive Governor's Citation certificates at the Governor's Committee General Meeting in the fall. The meeting is held in conjunction with National Employ the Handicapped (NETH) Week. Traditionally, the governor presents these awards in a ceremony at the General Meeting. Nomination forms and awards information may be obtained by writing or calling the GCDP office. ■

Local Committee Notes

Logo Contest Winner Recognized at SAMCDP Business Meeting

Atended by over 200 individuals, the San Antonio Mayor's Committee for Disabled Persons (SAMCDP) held its quarterly meeting on April 10 at the Region 20 Education Service Center. The meetings theme was "Education — Foundation for Independence" and centered on acquainting the community with the vital role that public school education plays in preparing disabled students for independent living, vocational goals, mainstreaming and employment.

Highlighting the conference was a display of exhibits from 1:00 — 4:30 P.M. representing training institutions and public schools from throughout Bexar County.

Fourteen high quality entries

were received during the month long contest for the creation of a new logo design. Sherry Kafka Wagner, GCDP member, chairs the San Antonio Recognition and Awards Subcommittee which coordinated the contest.

The contest winner, Marshall Hernandez, was presented a plaque and check by Kevin Moriarity, who represented Mayor Henry Cisneros. Hernandez is a graphic designer and art director for Speedy Printer. His logo design will be used on all letterhead, certificates, TV spots, membership cards and all publicity for the annual job fair held at the convention center.

The new logo (above right) is highly identifiable enabling people to recognize the committee. ■



Austin "JOB MATCH" Shaping Up

A new program will soon be helping employers and disabled job seekers get together according to Christina Wiswell, chairperson of the program sponsored by the Austin Mayor's Committee for Disabled Persons. The acronym for the program "JOB MATCH" stands for Matching Available Talent to Careers for Handicapped (MATCH).

The focus of JOB MATCH will be on the utilization of existing resources in the community to assist disabled people in finding a job. The JOB MATCH program is patterned after the San Antonio Mayor's Committee for Disabled Persons Job-Lead program, but will differ in several respects initially. Long range plans include a paid or volunteer staff to maintain records on employers and applicants. For now, calls are being handled through the City of Austin Affirmative Action Office at 477-6511. The City has been very supportive of this project according to Steve Currier, Mayor's Committee chairman. Funds are being solicited from employers and other sources to implement the project. For additional information about JOB MATCH contact Christina Wiswell at 469-7012. ■

CCMCEH to Develop Job Bank Program

Motivating industry to participate in the Corpus Christi Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (CCMCEH) was the major thrust of the business meeting and luncheon program held April 3 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Corpus Christi.

Mayor Pro Tem, Betty Turner introduced William Starnes, of San Antonio, as keynote speaker. Starnes is founder and president of Job Lead, Inc. in San Antonio, a non-profit corporation which locates employment for San Antonio's disabled citizens. He is also past chairman of the San Antonio Mayor's Committee for the Employment of the Handicapped.

In addressing the group Starnes remarked, "One of the most fundamental needs of a person is a meaningful job. This allows him to know that he is contributing to society and is being justly rewarded for his contribution. Unfortunately, many of our disabled citizens do not have this opportunity through no fault of their own. JOB LEAD, INC. is San Antonio's method of fulfilling this need".

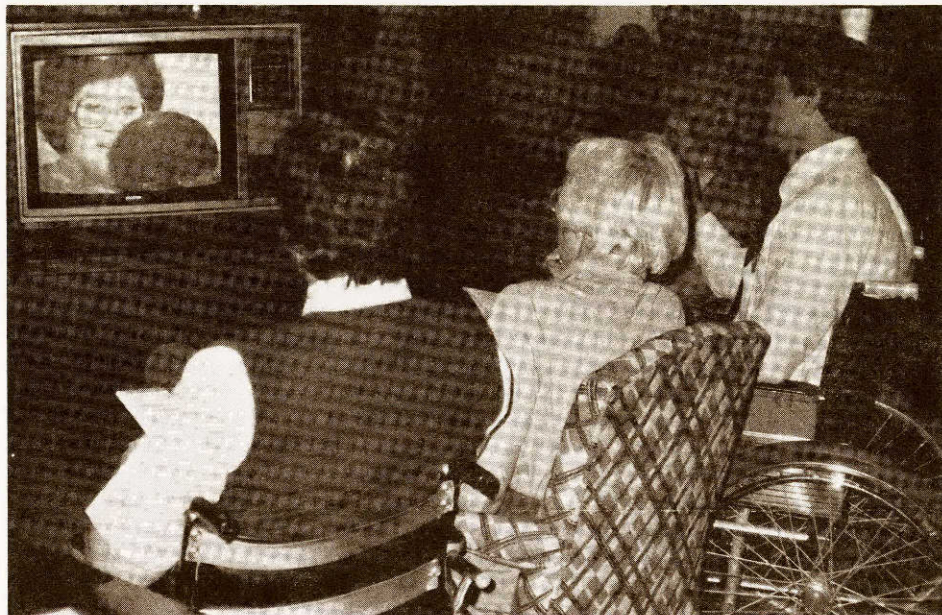
Tom Burkhardt, Chairman of CCMCEH, said "Starnes was invited to speak to this audience because the San Antonio MCEH has developed a remarkable job bank program that the CCMCEH hopes to emulate".

Burkhardt further remarked, "Two major committee objectives include public awareness and involving private industry in our program". Burkhardt plans to utilize the Employment subcommittee chaired by Fred Mathews to develop a job bank program for the Corpus Christi area. ■

Judges Select Barbara Jordan Award Winners

The winners of the 1984 Barbara Jordan Communications Awards competition were selected during March and April in judging sessions held in San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, Temple and Austin. Judges included disabled individuals and media professionals who worked diligently to choose the entries best reflecting positive images of disabled individuals.

The sessions flowed smoothly and results will be made public on June 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the second annual Barbara Jordan Awards Banquet. The TGCDP extends its appreciation to the media industry for its extensive contributions to the creation of positive public awareness of disabilities. ■



Dallas judges reviewed videos entered in the category of Television - Documentary. This session was hosted by Eugene Cuny, KDFW-TV, Dallas.

Forum Scheduled

Seleected disabled individuals from Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana have been invited to testify at a special one-day forum in Austin sponsored by the National Council on the Handicapped. The forum, entitled "Priorities for the Eighties," will be held on June 23 in the offices of the Texas Rehabil-

itation Commission, 158 East Riverside Drive, Room 101 B, from 9:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Similar forums were held in Santa Barbara, California and Chicago, Illinois. A fourth forum of this type is planned for New York City.

The purpose of the forum is to give members of the National Council on the Handicapped an opportunity to hear first hand from disabled individuals about their concerns and priority interests. Interested persons are invited to attend. Time will be allowed for discussion from the floor in addition to time scheduled for prepared testimony.

For additional information about the forum contact Sharon Gardner at (512) 282-3321 or (512) 442-9755. ■



GCDP REPORT

The GCDP Report is published quarterly by the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons to promote employment and public awareness of the abilities and special needs of persons with disabilities. Communications may be addressed to: Cindy Counts, Editor, GCDP Report, 118 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704, (512) 445-8275 (Voice or TDD).

Special Note: Taped copies of the GCDP Report will be provided upon request.

New Video Available

The GCDP now has a 3/4 inch video available for loan titled, "Tell Them I'm a Mermaid".

The show is a captivating production full of wit, warmth and humor. The show focuses on the lives of 7 extraordinary women with physical disabilities.

For further information on availability or subject matter please call Jo Farmer at (512) 445-8275.

Dart Honored

On March 16 Justin W. Dart, Jr. graciously accepted a "Certificate of Appreciation" presented to him by former Texas Rehabilitation Commission Board Chairperson, George H. McCullough at the Board's regular business meeting.

Dart was honored for his outstanding leadership as former Chairperson of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. Appointed as Chairperson of GCEH in October, 1980, Dart served until July, 1983. ■