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DID YOU KNOW?

▼ The Beaumont Mayor's Committee has a volunteer advocate for motorists with disabilities. He reports to the city police the license number and description of cars found illegally parked in areas reserved for people with disabilities. The city police then issue citations to the vehicle owners.

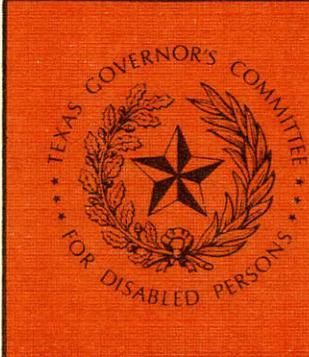
▼ The Employment Awards Conference of the Governor's Committee is tentatively scheduled to be held on Friday, October 27 at the Wyndham Southpark Hotel in Austin. Exhibits featuring the latest technology available to persons with disabilities will be displayed. Mark your calendar -- October 27!

▼ Plans are underway to reintroduce the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a comprehensive federal civil rights legislation package. The Act prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in many areas of life. For more information about ADA, contact Bonnie O'Day at 804-625-3555 (Voice or TDD).

▼ In June the Governor's Committee will move into new offices. Located at 4900 North Lamar in Austin, the new office building will be a model of accessibility for people with disabilities.

▼ Many bills impacting persons with disabilities have been introduced during the 71st Session of the Texas Legislature. If you have the name of the author or the number of the bill you are interested in you may call for bill status information at 1-800-252-9693 or, in Austin, 463-1251. Also, Advocacy, Inc., in Austin, publishes a Legislative Bulletin which features disability related bills. This is available for a fee of \$35.00 (negotiable). For information call 1-800-223-4206 or, in Austin, 454-4816, voice or TDD.

▼ The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will hold its annual meeting in Tampa, Florida on May 10 - 12. Program and registration information are available by calling 202-653-5044 (Voice) 202-653-5050 (TDD).



GCDP

REPORT

March, 1989

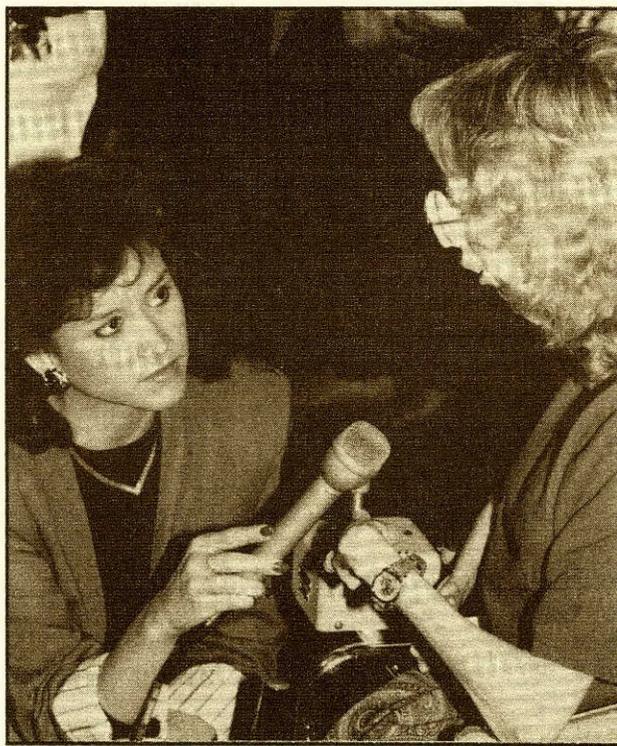
Austin, Texas

President's Committee pulls out of San Antonio and moves convention to Dallas

On February 14, 1989 Harold Russell, chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, announced that the Committee has cancelled plans to hold its 1991 annual meeting in San Antonio because San Antonio has no mainline accessible transit for people with disabilities and no plans to introduce any.

Further, Russell announced that the Committee's 1991 meeting will be held in Dallas, which has 100 lift equipped buses and plans to purchase more. "We believe that a multi-modal system like the one in Dallas . . . is best suited to the needs of people with disabilities," said Harold Russell.

It is estimated that the meeting, which will attract 4,000 - 5,000 people, would have brought at least \$1.6 million to San Antonio.



A San Antonio reporter interviewed Tanja Wade about the inaccessibility of the transit system in San Antonio.

"We believe that a multi-modal system like the one in Dallas . . . is best suited to the needs of people with disabilities,"

Harold Russell

Wayne Cook, general manager of VIA, San Antonio's transit system, told members of Russell's staff in January that VIA has no lift equipped mainline

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High caliber of volunteer involvement

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David A. Giles, Ph.D. exemplifies the caliber of volunteer committed to the success of persons with disabilities. David is chairperson of the Temple Mayor's Committee for Disabled Persons. He leads a busy life as Director of Mental Health Services for Central Counties Center for Mental Health and Mental Retardation. His center serves Hamilton, Lampasas, Coryell, Bell, and Milam counties.

David's community involvement includes teaching adult Sunday School and serving on the Christian Education Committee at St. Francis Episcopal Church. In addition, he officiates high school football games, and serves on the Temple Independent School District Special Education Advisory Board. He is an Associate Fellow in the Aerospace Medical Association

"Our hope for the Mayor's Committee is to expand job opportunities to all persons with disabilities by increasing employment alternatives."

David Giles, Ph.D.

and as such has published numerous articles dealing with aircraft operations. Scuba diving and flying are favorite leisure activities. David, who assumed the chair of the Temple Mayor's Committee two years ago says, "Our hope for the Mayor's Committee is to expand job opportunities to all persons with disabilities by increasing employment alternatives."

Recent accomplishments for the Mayor's Committee included participation in an employer incentive program to hire persons with disabilities -- Targeted Jobs Tax Credit 1988 Disabled Worker Placement Project. The Mayor's Committee also coordinated Temple's "Access to Rainbows" program which provides a recreational fishing experience to persons with disabilities.

Recommendations to the Governor

The Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons recommended at its January 1989 meeting that the Governor support the following issues:

- integrated vocational and employment services for persons with disabilities,
- transition planning for students with disabilities,
- a statewide telephone message relay service for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired,
- increased scope of architectural barriers legislation,
- program accessibility for persons with disabilities in the Sunset evaluation criteria,
- a state policy directing all public transit systems to become accessible, and
- adoption of a state definition of disabled/handicapped that is consistent with federal law.

The Committee also recommended increased funding for programs which promote independence and productivity among persons with disabilities and which support the maintenance of persons with disabilities in their homes and communities.

Dear sir,
We thank all of
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I really enjoy fi
Caught four fish
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poles almost brok
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going to pull me
had been fishing
life and it was
rode in the bus
fish home and ate
very good! I w
when we go ag
I had fun,

*One young participant, Terr
the fishing event*

Hooked on fishing rainbow trout

More than 2,200 people statewide which provides fishing opportunities for
Nine mayor's committees, in cooperation with the Wildlife Department, Lone Star Brewing Company, and the Mayor's Committee held accessible trout fishing events. Trout, 6 to 8 ounces in size, were dropped in closed basins at Beaumont, Bryan-College Station, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Temple and Texarkana.

San Antonio tackles fishing event in a novel way

In February a "Catch & Release Gala" was held in San Antonio at the river marina. The evening included a moon lit river-barge cruise through downtown San Antonio. Dress for the evening was unusual -- black tie and/or fishing attire were acceptable. One couple combined tuxedo's and chest waders for a catchy effect.

The San Antonio Mayor's Committee coordinated this fund raiser to benefit the Access to Rainbows trout fishing program. The gala yielded two days of fishing. Participants collected some good memories and took home a fishing rod and reel of their own.

Sponsors included Lone Star Brewing Co., Zebco, United Services Advisors, Inc., the San Antonio Mayor's Committee for Disabled Persons, City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation Department, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons.

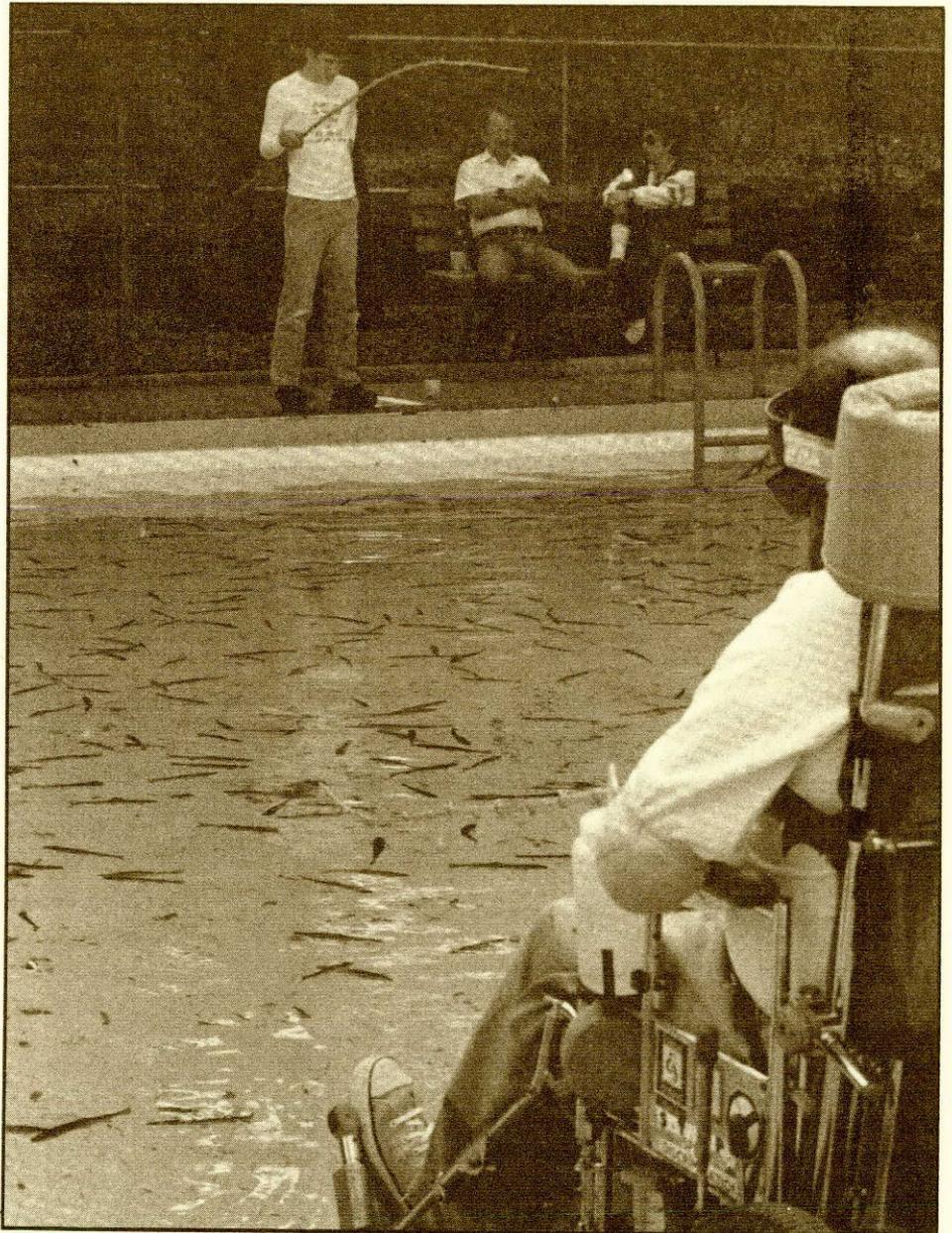
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fun when we
I took my
it. It was
ill be glad
gain because

Sincerely,
Terry Hill.
Carver School
Bryan Texas 77803

Terry Hill, put into words what
it meant to her.

g for

ere attracted to an exciting program
people with disabilities.
ation with the Texas Parks and
Co. and the Texas Governor's Com-
s. About 14,000 fish, ten to twelve
odies of water in the cities of Austin,
s Christi, Laredo, San Angelo,



(continued from page 1)

buses and no plans to purchase any. Russell said that it would be impossible for the President's Committee to meet in such a city. "The issue is not transportation for people who attend our meeting, it's every day access to mainline transit for people with any kind of disability who want to work and need a way to get to work."

Russell expressed his regret about the move. "San Antonio is a beautiful city, with wonderful people. The Mayor and members of the city administration are working very hard to make the city accessible to everyone. Maybe we can come to San Antonio at a later date, when VIA's policy has changed."

A. Kent Waldrep, Jr., chairman of the Texas Governor's Committee, supported the decision of the President's Committee. "This is one way that those of us who work in the disability field can support that goal of employment. We're not saying

that every transit system needs to make all of their vehicles accessible right away," said Waldrep. "We do think that transit operators should make an honest effort to begin the process, though."

Waldrep added that para-transit is not economical. "It doesn't make sense to make people who would rather ride mainline buses use a system that costs the taxpayers \$13.50 for every ride. Why not save the heavily subsidized rides for those people who really need them? If everybody who is eligible to use the special van system really used it, VIA wouldn't be able to pay the bill. In the long run, putting lifts on buses will save money, as well as being the right thing to do."

This announcement came following a federal appeals court order that the U.S. Department of Transportation require transit authorities nationwide to equip new buses with wheelchair lifts.

GCDP Report

The GCDP Report promotes employment and public awareness of the abilities and special needs of persons with disabilities. The quarterly GCDP Report is published by the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons.

Communications may be addressed to: Cindy Counts, Editor, GCDP Report, 118 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704. You may also call (512) 445-8741 (Voice or TDD).

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

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Note: The Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons is in compliance with Civil Rights Act of 1964 and is an equal opportunity employer.

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