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GCEH REPORT

May, 1983

Government Publications Austin, Texas

In Honor of the Media

JUL 8 1983

Dallas Public Library

The 500 media professionals, disabled persons, and representatives from the business sector, who attended the Barbara Jordan Communications Awards Banquet had a memorable evening.

The Texas Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (TGCEH) held the Barbara Jordan Communications Awards Banquet on April 7, at the Westin Oaks Hotel in Houston. The banquet honored the 10 winners of the 1983 Barbara Jordan Awards "for excellence in the communication of the reality of disabled persons."

Justin W. Dart, Jr., Chairman of the GCEH said, "We who are handicapped are struggling to overcome thousands of years of discrimination, psychological violence, and premature death." The battle to replace obsolete attitudes with equality will not be easy, Dart said. But work by the media, government officials, and others can ensure "a life of quality for all persons."

Secretary of State John Fainter and Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire pledged during the banquet to use the talents of handicapped citizens in the State of Texas.

Dallas and Austin each had winners in 3 categories.

Scott Carrico, KERA, in non-commercial radio; the Boy Scouts of America in the non-commercial print category; and Safeway Stores, Inc. in special contributions from an organization were all from Dallas.

Entries from Austin garnering winners' medallions were Public Address, Inc. in the advertising and public relations category; Khan Du Series II, Southwest Texas Public Broadcasting Council for non-commercial television; and Jan Krawitz and Thomas Ott in the non-commercial film competition.

Kandis Gatewood of the San Angelo Standard Times was honored in the commercial-print category, while Larry Johnson of San Antonio received the medallion for special contribution from an individual. The award for commercial radio was presented to Dan Parsons of KODA, Houston.

Fern Field, herself an award winning producer/director, accepted the award for Ron Howard and Anson Williams of Los Angeles who won in the category of commercial TV for a feature film produced in Texas.

These awards are named for Barbara Jordan, one of Texas' most distinguished

citizens and foremost spokespersons for the rights of all human beings.

The awards are beautiful three-inch bronze medallions designed by David Deming, internationally acclaimed Austin sculptor.

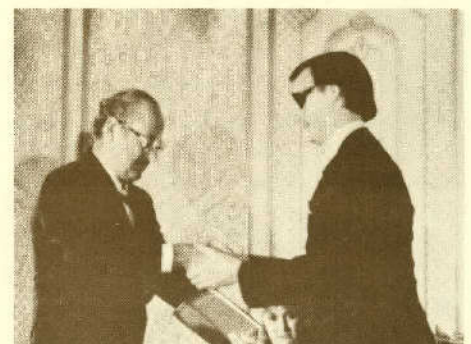
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1983 Banquet Co-chairpersons Willard Walbridge and Laurie Gerken did an outstanding job of coordinating the event.



GCEH Chairman Justin W. Dart, Jr. and Secretary of State John Fainter discuss the successful response to the awards program.

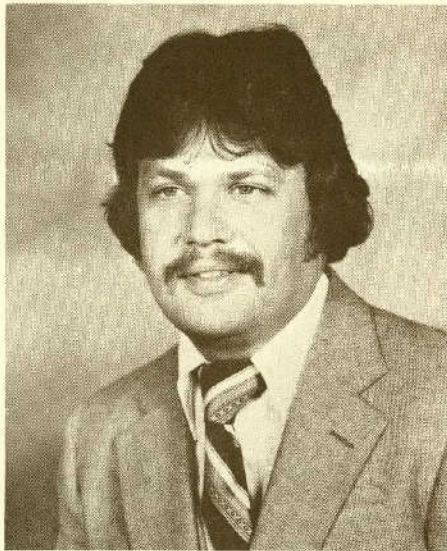


Richard J. V. Johnson, President, Houston Chronicle, presents Larry Johnson of San Antonio with a medallion for his contribution to communicating the reality of disabled people.

President's Committee Annual Meeting

Texans Among Those Honored

Ethicon, Inc. of San Angelo was honored with the President of the United States' highest award for employment of disabled persons. Ethicon, Inc. manufactures wound closure products and was recognized for their efforts in hiring, training, and promoting physically and mentally disabled persons.



William White, a disabled person, supervises Ethicon's needle manufacturing operation.

In 1978 Ethicon began training the clients of Concho Valley Center for Human Advancement, a center for mentally retarded people, to assure quality packages for sutures before sealing. As a result of this training, 14 disabled people were placed in jobs at Ethicon.

A San Antonio high school student was a "top 10" finalist in the "Ability Counts" national essay writing contest. Gina Lazaro of St. Mary's Hall Upper School received special commendation for her first place state entry and attended the Annual Meeting as a guest of the Texas AFL-CIO.

Patricia Just Long of Columbia, South Carolina received the coveted Handicapped American of the Year Award. She was recognized for her drive, determination, and enterprise in overcoming her disabilities and for her leadership in disability rights while working as a producer-announcer for the South Carolina Educational Radio Network.

Dr. Gaye R. Anderson, Director of the Theda Clark Industrial Injury Clinic, Neenah, Wisconsin, was named Physician of the Year.

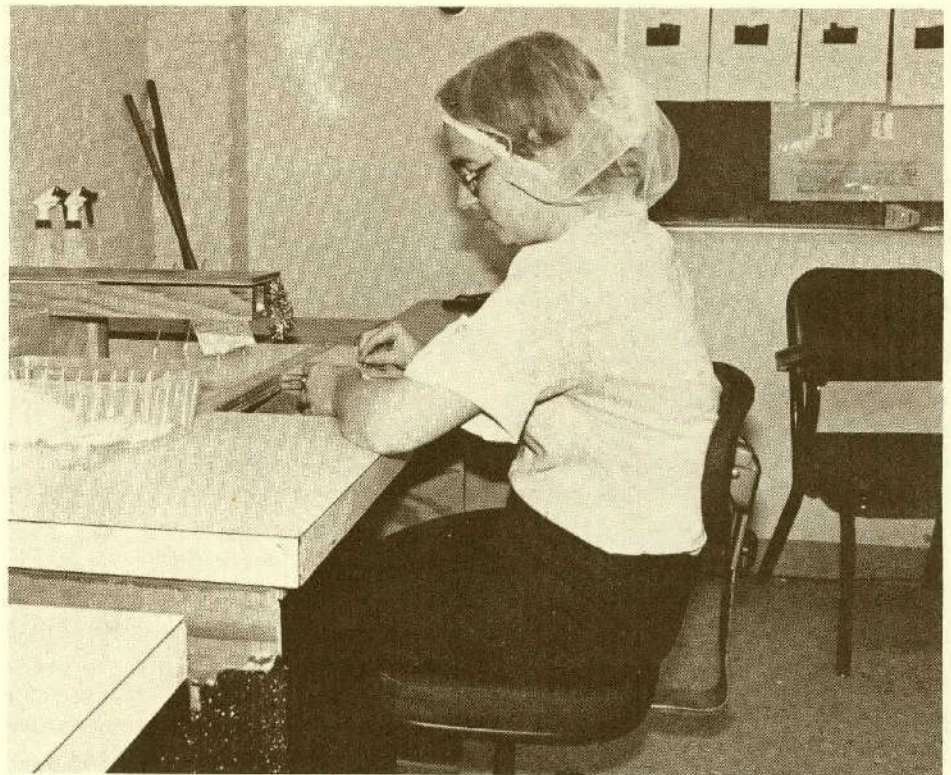
Distinguished Service Awards went to Max Cleland, Georgia Secretary of State and former Veterans' Affairs Secretary; Dr. Edward C. Merrill, Jr., President of

Gallaudet University; and the Reverend Howard G. Dawkins of Greenville, South Carolina.

The opening session featured a panel of leading reporters who quizzed the keynote speaker, John Naisbitt, author of the best-seller, "Megatrends."

The two day meeting dealt with themes of Technology, Attitudes, Resources, Growth, Employment, and Training through 17 workshops and panels, a film festival, and a job fair for disabled applicants.

The President's Committee Annual Meeting attracted some 4,000 participants, many of whom are disabled, from throughout the U.S. and abroad.



At Ethicon's Concho Valley Center for Human Advancement, a center for mentally retarded people, one trainee strives to reach a goal of hand winding 19 dozen sutures per hour. When the goal is met this individual will be considered for employment by Ethicon.

Independent Living . . . Employment, Sports and Recreation

Disabled Students Head for Slopes

by Janet Gibson, Bryan-College Station Eagle

A group of Texas A&M students spent spring break gliding down snowy Colorado slopes - but not on skis.

Instead, the students used sleds and shortened ski poles to twist and turn down the Breckenridge slopes, located 70 miles southwest of Denver.

The 11 "ski bums" included a double amputee, a paraplegic, three quadriplegics, and an individual with spina bifida.

These students are involved in the Able/Disabled Program - a campus organization composed of students with and without disabilities.

But the disabled members of the group don't fit any stereotypes. And they don't like labels.

"The disabled are tired of being treated like they're in a glass cage," says Larry Gee, Chairman of the group. "We need to let the disabled set their own limits."

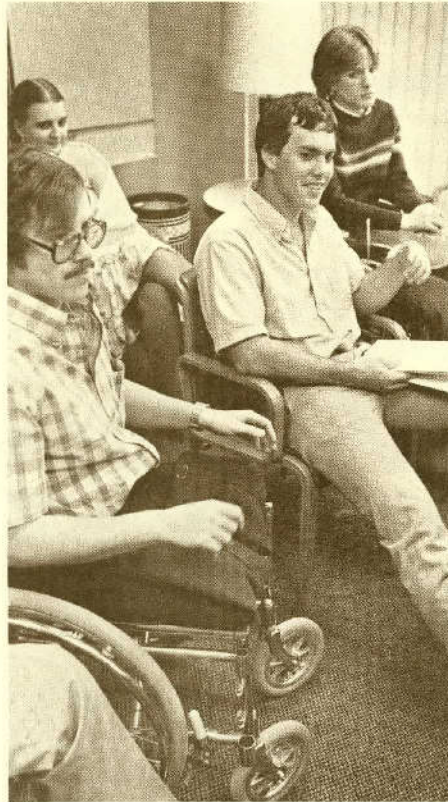


Photo by Dave Einsel
Bryan-College Station Eagle

"The Iron Man" Pushes to Houston

On April 22 at 10:00 a.m. LaVerne Achenbach, "The Iron Man," left the State Capitol Building in Austin and rolled 160 miles to Houston in his specially built hand pushed wheelchair.

Achenbach, sponsored by the Southwest Wheelchair Athletic Association, arrived in Houston at The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research on Monday, April 25 at 3:00 p.m.

Kicking off the 8th Annual Wheelchair games, Achenbach's roll illustrated the physical capabilities of disabled persons, and raised over \$1,000 in funds for wheelchair sports and recreation in Texas.

Achenbach is one of the 25 United States wheelchair marathoners who was selected for and rolled in the 1983 Boston Marathon. On April 18 Achenbach placed 7th in the Wheelchair Division at the Boston Marathon.

"Job Lead" Receives National Recognition

The City of San Antonio's Handicapped Access Office in partnership with the Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped entered and won the Community Program Award of \$1,000 in a \$25,000 national awards competition sponsored by the National Organization on Disability. Of 140 entries from across the United States, Job Lead was one of only 15 winners.

Their winning entry, "Job Lead," is a program that serves as a job information link between San Antonio's 33,000 unemployed disabled

citizens and community employers interested in hiring qualified disabled people seeking employment.

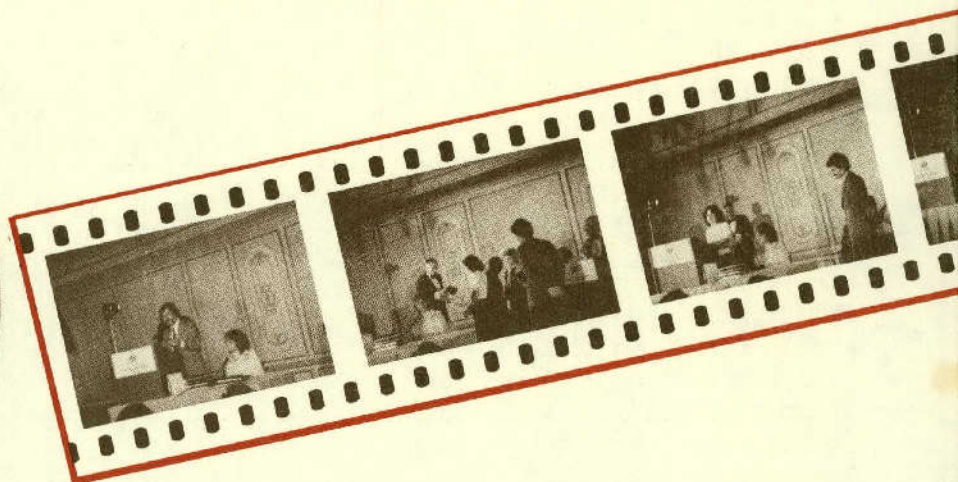
Several members of the business community as well as the City of San Antonio were involved in making "Job Lead" the success it is. These include:

HEB Food Stores
USAA Insurance, Inc.
Broadway National Bank
Ray Ellison Homes, Inc.
Texas Rehabilitation Commission
Southwestern Bell
Frontier Enterprises

Valero Energy Corporation
IBM Corporation
Luby's Cafeterias, Inc.
Executive Service Center
Tesoro Petroleum Corporation
National Bank of Commerce
Datapoint Corporation

In addition to the monetary award, the city received an engraved plaque at a ceremony in Washington, D. C. on April 5, 1983. The award ceremony was held in conjunction with congressional hearings on the nationally proclaimed "Decade of Disabled Persons."

Spotlighting the 1983 Barbara Jordan



Barbara Jordan, a powerful and effective communicator and advocate for human rights, in whose honor the communications awards program is named, sent the following videotaped message to the banquet audience:

We salute those gifted communicators from the media who this year enlightened us with new understanding of the world experienced by those among us who move, hear, see, speak, and learn under constraints not shared by many others among us.

While contemplating what I might say to you, I tuned in to one of the many media programs that increasingly deal effectively with the realities of life encountered by those who are called disabled.

The scientists and social workers talked, as they are wont to do, about research, access, funding or the lack thereof, mainstreaming and its alternatives. Round and round they went, in good conscience and with considerable sensitivity. It was an informative and commendable production.

But the climax came when the creators of the program refocused their cameras and let the so-called disabled speak for themselves. Most impressive was a young professional woman -- from Chicago, as I recall -- who spoke, when she could no longer keep her silence, from her chair on wheels.

Simply--but with intensity--she enunciated her message;

I am, first of all, a person. A real person. An able person. The disabled comes last, not first. If people can't cope with me as a person first, disabled second, then they tend to fade out of my life. I'm not sure they understand why.

For the excellence with which they have communicated to us the reality in the lives of such especially able people, I congratulate and commend the award winners of 1983.

Reader Survey

It is necessary to update the GCEH Report mailing list. Your name will be dropped from the mailing list unless you confirm your wish to continue receiving the newsletter. Please complete and return Part I of the Reader Survey to the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Part I _____ Yes, I would like to continue receiving the quarterly GCEH Report.

_____ No, I do not wish to receive future issues of the GCEH Report.

Please complete the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

_____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip Code)

Telephone () _____

Part II Optional

Your response to the following survey will help the editor tailor the newsletter to your interests.

- How much time do you spend reading the GCEH Report? (check one)
_____ 2 minutes or less _____ 5 to 10 minutes
_____ 2 to 5 minutes _____ more than 10 minutes
- Do family members or co-workers read your copy of the GCEH Report? (check one)
_____ Yes, regularly _____ No, not usually
_____ Yes, sometimes
- Rank the subjects below as 1 - 7 in order of your preference.
_____ Governor's Committee activities
_____ Mayor's (Local) Committee activities
_____ Products and/or services for disabled people
_____ Legislation affecting disabled persons
_____ Human interest stories featuring disabled employers
_____ Human interest stories featuring disabled persons
_____ Films and literature available through GCEH
- Please answer each of the following with a check.
Articles are _____ Too long _____ Too short _____ Acceptable Length
Articles are _____ Too technical _____ Too simple _____ About right
Photographs are _____ Too many _____ Too few _____ About right

5. Do you read the GCEH Report primarily from the perspective of: (check one)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Employer | <input type="checkbox"/> | Advocate for disabled persons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Disabled person | <input type="checkbox"/> | Family member of a disabled person |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Social Service provider | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other |

6. If employed, do you consider yourself to be: (check one)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Top level management | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have no supervisory authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Middle management | <input type="checkbox"/> | Work in Personnel Dept. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | First line supervisor | | |

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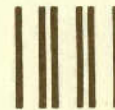
7. If you are a disabled person, are you currently: (check all appropriate responses)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Employed? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Seeking employment? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A member of an advocacy organization for the disabled? |

8. Additional comments and suggestions may be written in the space below.

Thank you for your time and cooperation! Please fold this sheet with the address of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission showing on the outside, tape or staple, and mail.

FOLD HERE



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UNITED STATES



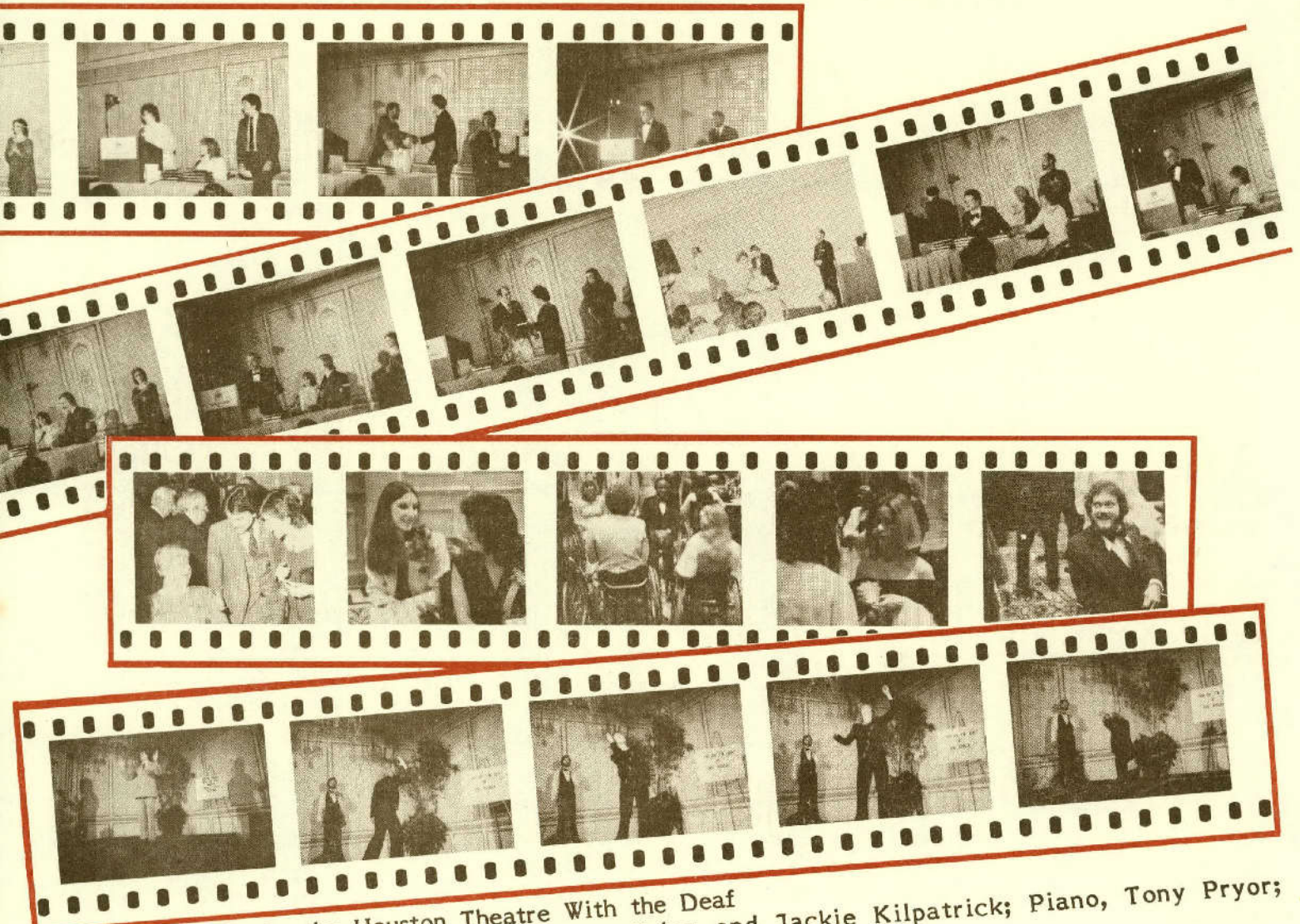
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TEXAS REHABILITATION COMMISSION
118 East Riverside Drive
Austin, Texas 78704

ATTN:
Texas Governor's
Committee on Employment
of the Handicapped

in Communications Awards Banquet



Entertainment by the Houston Theatre With the Deaf
 Artistic Director, Clarence Russell; Actors, Brian and Jackie Kilpatrick; Piano, Tony Pryor;
 Voice Interpretation, Pam Beishline and Gary Scullin



They Say I'm Deaf

by Saul R. Kessler

They say I'm deaf,
 These folks who called me
 friend.
 They do not comprehend.

They say I'm deaf
 And look on me as queer,
 Because I cannot hear.

They say I'm deaf.
 I who hear all day
 My throbbing heart at play.

The song the sunset sings;
 The joy of pretty things;
 The smiles that greet my eye;
 Two lovers passing by;
 A brook, a tree, a bird --
 Who says I have not heard?

Aye, tho' it must seem odd;
 At night I often hear God.
 So many kinds I get,
 Of happy songs, and yet
 They say I'm deaf.

Local Committee Notes

Dallas Mayor Hosts CEO'S

Forty-nine (49) Chief Executive Officers or their designated representatives attended a breakfast orientation about a new job bank for persons with disabilities at the invitation of Mayor Jack Evans.

Sponsored by the Dallas MCEH, the Mayor announced to major employers the establishment of the Mainstream-Link Job Placement Assistance Program. This service is offered by Mainstream, Inc., Washington, D.C. in cooperation with the Dallas MCEH as a national demonstration project.

Funding is provided through a Department of Labor grant to Mainstream, Inc.; furnished office space through Trammell Crow Co.; and community support through the Dallas MCEH.



Left to right: Keynote speaker Doyle Rogers, S. W. Bell, Vice President, joins Dallas MCEH Chairperson, Harlan Crow and Mayor Jack Evans in welcoming Deborah McFadden, Mainstream, Inc. representative, to employer breakfast.

City Auditorium Renovated

San Angelo city officials recently requested the assistance of the San Angelo Mayor's Committee in developing wheelchair accessible seating in the newly renovated city auditorium.

The city removed a few folding seats to make space to accommodate three wheelchairs in 2 different sections of the auditorium.

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1222 N. Main Ave., Suite 321
San Antonio, Texas 78212
(512) 299-7007

Denton MCEH Conducts Accessibility Study

Over 1,000 Denton businesses were contacted by the Denton MCEH in the past several months. These local businesses were asked to participate in an accessibility study.

The Denton MCEH hopes to assemble this information and publish an accessibility book for Denton residents by summer's end.

Local Committee Notes

Denton Handicapped Awareness Week

By Mary Jane Kilcrease

They still talk about that scavenger race on the North Texas State University cam-



Photo by Donna Bagby

In observance of Handicapped Awareness Week in Denton, Professor Kathleen Swigger holds onto the back of a wheelchair occupied by Professor Tom Irby while taking part in a wheelchair scavenger race at North Texas State University.

pus. It's pretty hard to forget about seeing your history professor crashing down the stairs on a pair of crutches. How about those two computer science teachers (one was blindfolded) in the runaway wheelchair?

That famous scavenger race everyone's talking about was just one of several activities that took place during Handicapped Awareness Week in Denton March 5-11.

Events such as a beep baseball exhibition, wheelchair races, and simulation of handicapping conditions were designed to increase public awareness about handicapped people and their problems. In the scavenger race, participants were required to use handicapped equipment such as wheelchairs and crutches to help them become more sensitive to the problems handicapped people face in their everyday lives.

Music played a special role during the week. Duncan Holmes, a blind pianist, presented a piano recital. The Texas Woman's University communications science department sponsored signed singing performances at both universities.

The week concluded with an awards luncheon sponsored by the Denton Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.



Some needs are basic. Mary Ellen Bailey, Chairperson of the San Angelo MCEH, checks out the new facility.

Some Needs Are Very Basic

A "food booth" sponsored by the San Angelo Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped at the city's Fiesta del Concho celebration created awareness of the needs of disabled persons in a way that was unanticipated.

The booth serves to promote awareness of the needs of disabled individuals in the community and also helps to increase participation in the Mayor's Committee. This booth is manned by disabled as well as non-disabled individuals.

Following last year's celebration one need quickly became apparent to Chamber of Commerce leaders. There was NOT a portable accessible restroom available.

For this year's celebration the Chamber of Commerce secured a contract with Porta-John Corporation to

Cont. on p. 8

For Your Information . . .

DD Council Moves to New Location

In April the Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities moved to its new headquarters in Suite 163 of the Central Office of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

By way of background - the Governor's Planning Council is comprised of 24 persons appointed by the Governor who represent individuals with developmental disabilities and/or represent state agencies that provide services to disabled individuals.

The Council's mission is to plan and coordinate in order to assure that the developmentally disabled population in Texas receive appropriate services.

By law a developmental disability is defined as a serious chronic disability - mental or physical - which is manifested before the age of 22. The disability results in a substantial limitation in three areas of major life activity and results in the need for services over an extended period.

Council staff are available by calling 512/445-8867 or writing the Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, 118 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, Texas 78704.

Media Honored

Cont. from p. 1

Co-chairpersons Willard Walbridge, Houston communications executive and Laurie Gerken, disability rights leader also from Houston, coordinated the statewide event for the Media Relations Subcommittee of the GCEH.

Also serving on the dinner committee was astronaut Alan Shepard, Mayor Kathy Whitmire, former Mayor Louie Welch of Houston, San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros, and football legends Earl Campbell and Darrell Royal, as well as other noted Texas and Houston business, education, social, disability, and political leaders.

A list of nominees for the 1983 awards is available from the GCEH.

GCEH Awards Nominations Sought

. . . Deadline July 16

The GCEH is seeking nominations in six award categories for the purpose of recognizing those who have contributed to successful employment or employability of persons with disabilities. Awards are traditionally presented by the Governor at an awards luncheon as a part of the annual meeting of the Governor's Committee in the fall of each year.

Awards categories are Handicapped Texan of the Year, Physician of the Year, Large Employer of the Year, Small Employer of the Year, Governor's Citation for Meritorious Service, Governmental Agency of the Year, and Public Employee of the Year.

Nomination forms may be requested through the local

Mayor's Committees on Employment of the Handicapped or GCEH by calling 512-445-8270.

Issued Quarterly

The GCEH Report is published quarterly by the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (GCEH) to provide information about employment and related concerns regarding the disabled. Communications may be addressed to: Cindy Counts, Editor, GCEH Report, 118 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, TX 78704, 512/445-8741 (Voice or TDD).

Special Note: GCEH will provide taped copies of the GCEH Report upon request.

Basic Needs

Cont. from p. 7

provide a wheelchair accessible restroom. Wheelchair users in San Angelo are looking forward to participating in the 1983 Fiesta del Concho in comfort.

Sponsors of similar events may wish to obtain brochures on accessible portable restroom facilities by contacting:

John Gruver
Porta-John Corporation
P. O. Box 129
Utica, MI 48087

800-521-6310

Porta-John Corporation has offices in most major Texas cities: San Antonio, Houston, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, and El Paso to name a few.