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GCEH REPORT

August, 1982

Austin, Texas

Government Publications

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GCEH 1982 General Meeting and Annual Awards Luncheon

GCEH will host a General Meeting and Annual Awards luncheon on October 1, 1982 to promote public awareness of disabled persons.

Austin's Best Western Villa Capri is the site for this year's General Meeting and Annual Awards luncheon. The Villa Capri offers 11 accessible guest rooms and accessible meeting facilities.

The morning plenary session will feature a keynote address and recognition of individuals and organizations receiving special honors. Morning workshop sessions will target career fields with high employment potential in the '80's. The three workshops are: Disabled Employees in the Media; Disabled Employees in the Hospitality Industry; and Disabled Employees in the Computer Industry. Workshop leaders are experienced professionals in the fields addressed.

At the luncheon, five awards will be presented to persons and organizations in the State of Texas for outstanding contribution to the employment of disabled individuals:

- Handicapped Texan of the Year
- Employer of the Year (Two Awards)
- Physician of the Year
- Governor's Citation for Meritorious Service

Afternoon workshops dealing with recruiting disabled job applicants and job readiness will be offered.

Due to the overflow attendance at the 1981 luncheon, ticket sales will be limited to 300 advance sale tickets. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Contact the GCEH for information on ticket reservations.

Mark your calendar now and reserve October 1, 1982 for attendance at the GCEH General Meeting and Annual Awards Luncheon.

Governor Appoints Long Range Planning Group

On June 11, 1982, Governor Clements appointed members to a Long Range Planning Group charged with developing a plan to facilitate effective implementation of state policy regarding disabled citizens.

According to Texas Law, it is the policy of the state to encourage and enable persons with disabilities "to participate in the social and economic life of the state, to achieve maximum personal independence, to become gainfully employed, and to otherwise fully enjoy and use all public facilities available within the state."

Members of the Planning Group include leaders of disability advocacy and service organizations, state agency board chairpersons, state legislators, and prominent private sector volunteers.

Justin W. Dart, Jr., Chairman of the Planning Group, said, "I will be depending on the qualified membership to meet this challenge 'head-on' with a realistically, fiscally, and socially responsible plan for meeting the needs of the disabled community."

Draft material will be mailed out in preparation for receiving public comment in a series of 8 forums across the State. These forums will provide an opportunity for an exchange of ideas on the draft material and will identify the concerns of consumers, service providers, professional organizations, community agencies, and others regarding the future direction of implementation of state policies.

FORUM SCHEDULE:

August 26	Dallas
August 28	Longview
September 9	Lubbock
September 11	El Paso
September 16	Houston
September 18	McAllen
September 24	San Antonio
September 25	Austin

Written comments or questions regarding the forum schedule should be addressed to:

Sharon Boatman
Texas Dept. of Human Resources
P.O. Box 2960
Austin, Texas 78769
512-835-0440

Denton Handicapped Awareness Week heightens public's sensitivity

Have you ever watched blind athletes wrestle or seen a demonstration featuring wheelchair tennis? At the Handicapped Awareness Week held in Denton on March 28-April 3 that opportunity was extended to the Denton community.

A variety of activities were held to heighten the public's awareness of disabled individuals. Community members were encouraged to participate in the scheduled events which included beep baseball, a scavenger hunt, a sign language workshop, adaptive swimming, blind wrestling, wheelchair tennis, and bowling, to name a few.

On April 2 the Denton Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (DCEH) hosted their first awards luncheon. Their guest speaker, Jack Kishpaugh, representing the National Paraplegia Foundation, demonstrated an adapted home computer system which he designed for use by severely disabled individuals. Mayor Richard Stewart presented the Employer of the Year Award to Wyatt's Cafeteria for its policy of hiring handicapped youth in Denton County. Mr. Bobby Lampman, who works for Victor Equipment Company, received the Handicapped Person of the Year Award.

A Public Information Seminar sponsored by DCEH and GCEH on April 2 was attended by 34 representatives of more than a dozen local human service agencies and organizations. A media panel of experts from local newspaper, radio, and cable TV briefed participants and conducted workshops on how to establish rapport and appropriately place items with the media.

As stated by Gary Truitt, DCEH Chairman, "Our challenge is to make 1982 a year of increased freedoms for all citizens of Denton — a year we can look back on with pride; a year of true human rights for all."

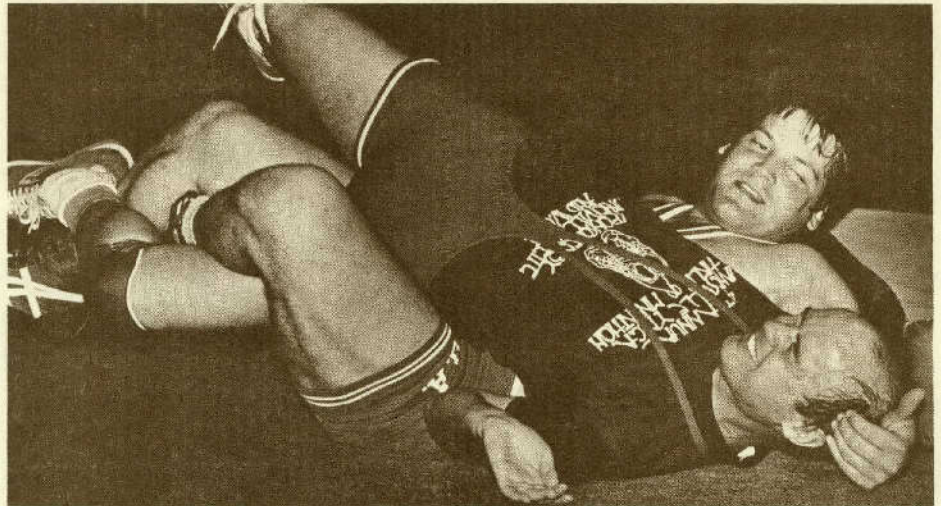


Photo by Donna Bagby, Denton Record Chronicle

Several individuals demonstrated blind wrestling at an event sponsored by Texas Woman's University during the Handicapped Awareness Week held in Denton.

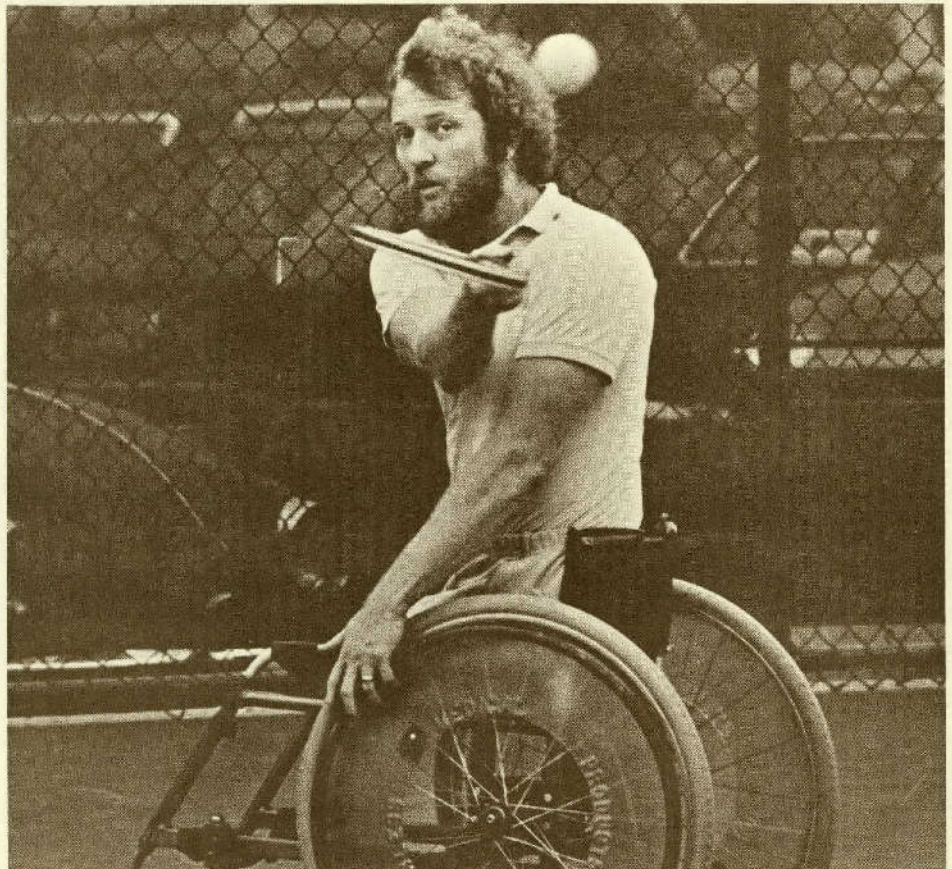


Photo by Eric Gay, Denton Record Chronicle

Don Drewry, of Dallas' Bachman Recreation Center, demonstrated wheelchair tennis at the Handicapped Awareness Week in Denton.

Useful Information . . . Dealing with Disabled Persons

Overcoming Barriers

A series of fact sheets written to assist city officials in implementing Section 504 is currently available from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The series, "Overcoming Barriers" will address specific issues of interest to city officials with responsibility for complying with Section 504.

The fact sheets are designed to correlate to municipal functions — health, human services, transportation, employment, etc. In addition, related issues such as attitude awareness, the role of a Mayor's advisory committee for disabled persons and other topics will be presented.

If you have any questions, want additional information, or have any suggestions about the fact sheets, contact the Section 504 Program staff (202) 293-7650.

United States Conference of
Mayors

1620 Eye Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20006

Voice Recognition

Eugene Spalding, a young man who lives with his family in Columbus, Georgia, was injured in a swimming accident in July, 1979. The accident left Spalding paralyzed from the neck down. Spalding, who hates to sit around idle, says "At times I used to wish it had wiped out my mind, too." Sometime later, Spalding enrolled in the Georgia Computer Programmer Project for the severely handicapped, and from that point on, Gene has used computers to maximize his independence.

In his personal life, Spalding uses a voice input computer to control his environment: turn lights on and off, control heat and air, turn the stereo on and off, for example. In

addition, computers provide his employment. He runs a computer dealership and works as a computer consultant. In 1981, he won a National Science Foundation Award for a paper about computer aid to handicapped persons.

Spalding has minimal use of his hands. He uses the Shadow/VET, designed in 1981 by Scott Instruments of Denton, Texas. With the Scott Shadow/VET Voice Recognition System and software, voice and keyboard entry can be used interchangeably.

Additional information about this system is available from:

Will Wagers
Director of Systems
Development
1111 Willow Springs Drive
Denton, Texas 76201
817-387-9514

Films



These films are available on a loan basis from the GCEH:

1. "A Different Approach" — The most popular film ever made about disabled persons. Humorously portrays attitudes about employment of disabled persons. An award winning Norman Lear Production.
2. "It's a New Day" — A 9 minute film celebrating new attitudes and technologies available to disabled people. Through its beautiful cinematography and music this film will captivate your audience.
3. "America the Beautiful" — Civic club sends members into local businesses and identifies barriers to disabled persons. An upbeat film with sensitivity and awareness; excellent for civic club showings.

For further information on availability or subject matter of these films, please call: 512-445-8276.

Hospital Guide to 504

Mainstream, Inc. introduced a guide for hospitals and health professionals on providing health care and employment opportunities to disabled persons. "A Hospital Guide to Section 504" is a comprehensive guide to the federal regulations and issues involved in serving the disabled community.

The hospital manual includes a step-by-step guide for self-evaluation and problem solving, as well as offering concrete examples from a two-year national demonstration project. Included in the guide are five questionnaires to help hospitals survey and rate their scope of services for the disabled population.

"A Hospital Guide to Section 504" is available from Mainstream for \$37.50. The manual can be obtained by writing Public Information Department; Mainstream, Inc., 1200 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. (202) 833-1136 V/TTY.

Directory Federal TDD Numbers

To enable hearing impaired citizens to call Federal agencies and quickly receive assistance in resolving problems and receiving answers to questions, the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs has prepared a *Directory of Federal TDD Numbers*. The Directory lists over 70 locations and TDD numbers of key Federal agencies.

Single copies of the Directory are available free by writing to the Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colorado, 81009. For bulk copies, contact Juanita Yates, U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs, 1009 Premier Building, Washington, D.C. 20201, 202-634-4297.

The Media has a tremendous power to modify obsolete attitudes which limit disabled people and to change crippling stereotypes with facts.

**DEADLINE EXTENDED
TO OCT. 1, 1982**

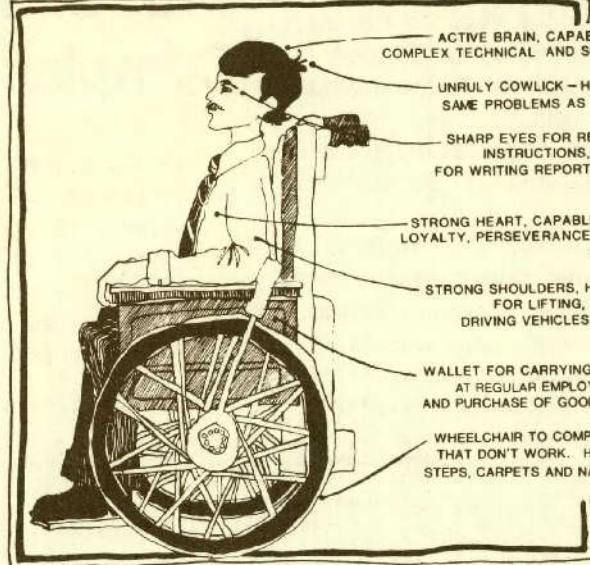
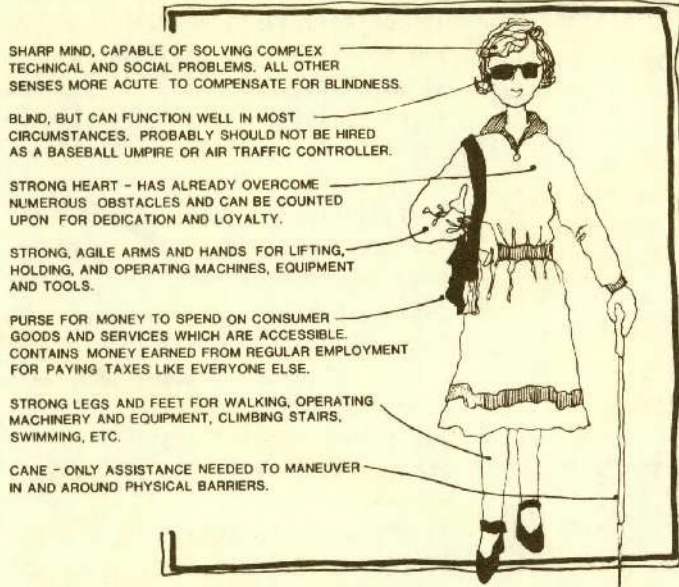
COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

Texas Governor's Committee
on Employment of the Handicapped

118 E. Riverside Drive
Austin, Texas 78704
512/445-8276

WANTED:

JOBS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



REWARD: 22 MILLION POTENTIALLY PRODUCTIVE, TAX-PAYING, AMERICAN CITIZENS AND CONSUMERS WHO LIVE FULL AND SATISFYING LIVES WITH HANDICAPS WHICH NO LONGER RELEGATE THEM TO THE SIDELINES OF THE GAME OF LIFE. THIS NUMBER INCLUDES 79,000 SAN ANTONIANS AND 1.86 MILLION TEXANS.

FULL EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATIONAL, RECREATIONAL, CIVIC, SOCIAL, TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC AND SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DENIED MANY OPPORTUNITIES DUE TO IGNORANCE, APPREHENSION, INDIFFERENCE, AND PHYSICAL OBSTACLES WHICH CAN BE ELIMINATED AT MINIMUM EFFORT AND EXPENSE.

Poster Aimed at Potential Employers

On July 8 in the San Antonio City Council Chambers General William Starnes, Chairman of the local mayor's committee, unveiled a new poster aimed at reaching potential employers of disabled persons. The poster was presented to Mayor Henry Cisneros who has actively supported work to insure that disabled persons are given job opportunities by San Antonio employers.

"Wanted: Jobs for People with Disabilities," the theme of the poster, was produced under the auspices of the San Antonio Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and the City's Handicapped Access Office. Graphics were done by Jean Rosow.

This poster is now available as a public service through the GCEH.

"Palo Pinto Gold" Holds Open House

A ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of the "Palo Pinto Gold" workshop for mentally and physically disabled Palo Pinto County citizens was held on Sunday, August 1, 1982.

Over 75 participants joined in the dedication ceremony, including the city's mayor, members of the workshop board of directors, workshop employees, and community volunteers.

The Mineral Wells Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped provided the impetus for de-

veloping the workshop and assisted in fund raising for this much needed sheltered employment opportunity. The building, which was donated, was renovated by volunteers from the community.

The workshop opened with 7 clients employed in assembling items needed by business and industry.

**1.2 MILLION
TEXANS
DISABLED
BUT ABLE TO
VOTE**

Communications Awards

The deadline for submission of nominations for the first GCEH Communications Awards Program has been extended to October 1, 1982. Early response to the program has been excellent.

Awards will be presented at a special event planned for February 1982 in Houston.

Individuals and organizations in the communication media will be recognized for outstanding contributions to a better public understanding of the potential and problems of disabled individuals at this event.

Contact the GCEH office for more information about the awards program.

Deaf Persons with Consumer Complaints

The Consumer Protection Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office has a TDD phone for communicating with deaf persons. Deaf persons with a consumer complaint or questions about consumer protection laws should call:

512-475-0885 (TDD)



On July 26, 1982, TRC Commissioner and Captain of the Fast Break Bureaucrats, Max Arrell, reached new heights while playing Austin's City-sponsored wheelchair basketball team, the River City REC-ers. Proceeds from the game will benefit the River City REC-ers, Austin Resource Center for Independent Living, and Austin Area Rehabilitation Association.

CTD 5th Annual Delegate Assembly ... reserve Oct. 22-24

On October 22-24, 1982, the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) will hold its 5th Annual Delegate Assembly. The Conference will be held at the beautiful new Hyatt Regency Hotel on the riverwalk in San Antonio.

The conference will provide a forum for discussion of legislation, rules and regulations, and strategies for problem solving relative to disabled individuals.

On Saturday, October 23, two workshops will be offered, one focusing on independent living programs and the other on technology for the disabled.

CTD is a statewide cross disability advocacy coalition composed of 47 organizational members and 120 individual members.

For further information on conference registration and pre-registration, please contact:

CTD Central Office
P.O. Box 4709
Austin, Texas 78765
(512) 447-3380

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, 118 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas, 78704, 512-445-8741 or TDD, 512-447-8346.

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