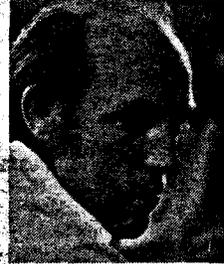


4/10/79

**“If you think you are
handicapped,
you might as well
stay indoors.
If you think you are a person,
come out and
tell the world.”**

**Ray Loomis
1979 Jefferson Award
Winner**



Ray Loomis spent 15 years of his life in a state institution for the mentally retarded. Making it in the outside world wasn't easy. But Ray did it. And now he's helping others do the same.

A few years ago Ray had the idea to form a support group of mentally and physically handicapped individuals to help them help themselves. Project II has since grown to over 200 members who realize they are people first, and that their handicaps come second. Join us as we honor Ray Loomis, KETV's 1979 Jefferson Award Winner.

If you've never met a person who is handicapped, give yourself the chance. It might help you overcome some handicaps of your own.

“We are people first.”

**Saturday at 6 pm
on channel 7**

Omaha
World
Herald
5/14/79

The Up-Side-Down Sound

LAST week's observation that the musical score printed on a University of Nebraska at Omaha College of Fine Arts brochure was up-side-down produced a tongue-in-cheek phone call from Jim Saker, who is the university's new band director and a man who will be much involved in the upcoming summer workshops.

He tried to blame the whole thing on the printer, but I already know from my brief sojourn as a newspaper-type that printers never make mistakes. But, enough of that.

To the intriguing part: Jim's answer to an inquiry about what that up-side-down score would sound like if someone tried to play it.

About that particular passage he couldn't guess, but playing scores up-side-down and even backwards is apparently commonplace in some 20th century music. The former is called "inversion;" the latter, "retrograde."

Jim explained to me (understand, my musical knowledge dates only from "Mairzy Doats") that Arthur Schonberg, one of the best known of contemporary musicians, was given to "serial" compositional devices. One is: a score whose latter parts are simply the earlier parts written up-side-down.

Saker went on to tell me of a work by American composer Charles Ives in which the second part is nothing more than the first half played backwards.

And then there's "Ludus Tonalis" (that may sound just like you'd think it would) by Paul Hindemith.

Its postlude, according to Jim, is the prelude played backwards... which goes a long way toward explaining why there will always be a market for tunes like "You're the Hangnail of My Life and I Can't Bite You Off."

A Super Show

THE very vision of "Morning Mouth," Dave Wingert, belly-dancing on the stage of the Orpheum could be enough to keep a body away from tonight's "CELEBRATING US: A Super Show," but don't let it.

There'll be another 199 actors, singers, dancers and what all, each working to raise a few bob to send an Omaha Community Playhouse cast to Bulgaria this summer to perform "The Robber Bridegroom."

Finally...

SOME satisfying news to pass along — about a mentally-retarded adult who refuses to roll over and die because his speech is halting and his thought processes a little more deliberate than yours or mine.

His name is Ray Loomis, the 1979 winner of the Jefferson Award, presented by KETV and the American Institute for Public Service.

He's already received his bronze medallion — about a month ago — but now he's been notified that he is one of 16 finalists for five national honors. If he's one of those eventual winners, he'll go off to Washington and on June 26, in the Supreme Court of the United States, he will be rewarded with a gold and silver medal and \$1,000 in prize money.

Bettie Shapiro, who helped to screen the 180 local nominations, says Ray stood so far above the field there could be, plainly, only one winner in the Midlands this year. He is, Bettie says, intelligent, perceptive, with an uncanny range of leadership abilities.

Consider this: He spent 15 years in the Beatrice State Developmental Center and on his release organized (perhaps as much for his own benefit as for others') Project II, a kind of support group for the mentally retarded and otherwise handicapped.

From this handful of frightened people, not sure of their ability to deal with the world around them, has come a statewide organization with hundreds of members — People First of Nebraska — drawing the consideration of national groups and learned individuals who share their concerns.

At its helm: a middle-aged man who scrubs the dried food from a mountain of dishes every day in the steamy recesses of a west Omaha restaurant, who goes home in wet shoes each night to a special woman named Nancy and their small yellow-haired son, Billy.

If you can spare the extra moments it takes to listen as he struggles with his words, this man — this man who, no matter the outcome on June 26, already has his reward — will say to you:

"If you think you are handicapped, you might as well stay indoors.

"If you think you are a person, come out and tell the world."
Ask you: who is handicapped?

Seven hundred people, from children to grandparents, have been evaluated at Creighton University for seven years to help university researchers find ways to predict who may get asthma.

The people, relatives from a number of families in which asthma has occurred, will be seeing Dr. Robert Townley, chief of the allergy section in C.U.'s Medical School, and his

Your Health

staff for years longer, because finding answers takes time.

To date, four markers have surfaced that may point to early identification of potential asthma patients, said Townley, who also heads the allergic-disease center at C.U. It is one of 15 in the United States.

It has been generally accepted for some time that asthma tends to occur more frequently in some families than in others.

9 Million Sufferers

Not every member of an "asthma family" will develop this obstructive airway disease, which can occur in mild and severe forms. It is estimated that about 9 million Americans suffer from asthma.

For preventive reasons, it could be helpful to predict which persons are at risk, Townley said.

"Since 1962, we have tested 1,500 asthmatics. All of them have shown bronchial sensitivity to acetylcholine," he said. Acetylcholine is a substance that plays an important role in the chemical transmission of nerve impulses.

The researchers are finding that some members of asthma families who show no signs of the disease also have sensitive airways, although to lesser degrees than asthma patients.

During the study of the sensitive but not symptomatic people, some developed asthma. More may in the years ahead, Townley said.

Question

One question to be answered is why one person with bronchial sensitivity becomes an asthmatic and another does not.

Bronchial sensitivity also is being investigated at other institutions and may be one of the most promising and predictive markers, Townley said.

Sensitivity testing is done by having a person inhale methacholine, a chemical relative of acetylcholine.

Two other potential markers coming out of the C.U. studies are linked to blood levels of two different substances: One is an elevated level of IGE, a type of

less than normal level of a particular protein that inhibits the action of the enzyme trypsin.

The C.U. researchers most recently reported that asthmatic people have a shortage of a type of cell receptors. The receptors, receiving stations on the surfaces of certain cells, are part of the mechanism by which the body uses its own supply of adrenalin, which can help keep airways open.

Could Be Helpful

Townley said trying to test all families with an asthma history is not warranted or practical based on what is known now.

If a person from an asthma family has begun to show one or two signs which suggest possible asthma, however, testing could be helpful, he said.

One reason to find people at risk is to help them avoid things which might trigger the onset of the disease.

"For the person at risk, for example, it certainly would be important to not start to smoke," Townley said.

Some, but not all, asthma is related to allergy. In certain cases, the advice to persons at risk might be to avoid sub-



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Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis
Senator Robert Taft, Jr.

PRESIDENT

Samuel S. Beard

April 20, 1979

Mr. Ray Loomis
c/o ENCORE
885 South 72nd Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68114

Dear Mr. Loomis:

On behalf of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, the Honorable Robert Taft, Jr. and the American Institute for Public Service, I wish to congratulate you on winning the Jefferson Award.

The Jefferson Awards began in 1973 to recognize excellence in public service in the United States. A national Board of Selectors runs the Institute. Members of the Board include Charles Bartlett, Jack Valenti, Senator John Heinz, Winthrop P. Rockefeller, Andrew Wyeth, and Neil Simon, among others. The American Institute gives out awards in five categories ranging from the Greatest Public Service By An Elected Or Appointed Official to Outstanding Public Service Benefiting Local Communities.

Currently, 49 media sponsors representing 41 states assist the Institute in selecting Jefferson Award winners in local communities.

As a local winner, you are now eligible for national consideration, and the Board of Selectors of the Institute will select five national winners from across the country. The Awards Ceremony will be held in the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, June 26 and each winner will receive \$1,000.

Congratulations again, and I will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Samuel S. Beard
President



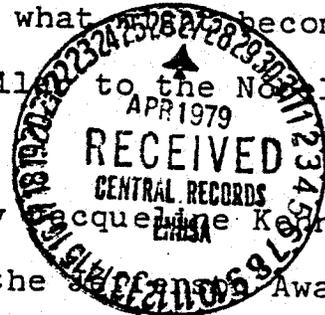
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Jefferson Awards and the American Institute for Public Service were founded in 1973 to honor the highest ideals and achievements in the field of public service in the United States. Through the Jefferson Awards the Institute recognizes the dedication, sacrifice and accomplishments of individuals serving the American people and strives to attract new, young leadership into public service.

Historically, public service in America has been held in very low regard. The assumption has always been that the most talented people in the country operate in the private sector and that the public sector is a haven and a refuge for mediocrity. In an attempt to dramatize excellence in public service, the goal of the American Institute is to establish what will become a series of national awards for public service similar to the Nobel or Pulitzer prizes.

The Board of Selectors, co-chaired by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Senator Robert Taft, selects the award winners, and awards are granted in five different categories:

- The Greatest Public Service Performed By An Elected or Appointed Official
- The Greatest Public Service Performed By A Private Citizen
- The Greatest Public Service Benefiting The Disadvantaged
- The Greatest Public Service Performed By An Individual Thirty-Five Years or Under
- The Greatest Public Service Performed By Private Individuals Benefiting Local Communities



4/10/79

Big award awaits Loomis; chosen from field of 180



Loomis, winner of Jefferson Award, will be featured in a KETV special April 14 at 6 p.m. He will compete for the \$1000 award in Washington, D.C.

It used to be said that people who are mentally retarded could not exist outside the walls of a state institution.

But Ray Loomis is an example of a man who has done just that, and more.

The American Institute for Public Service in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with local television station KMTV, have awarded Loomis the Jefferson Award for outstanding public service and contribution to his local community.

Loomis was chosen from a field of 180 nominations and according to Bettie Shapiro, KETV public service director, was an obvious choice for this award.

Loomis' work as co-founder of Project II, a group made up of mentally retarded men and women, was

cited as one factor in the decision. His commitment to volunteer work and the success of the Project II organization was also considered.

Shapiro said that because there are no specific parameters to the selection process, the type of winner varies greatly from year to year.

This spring, local winners from around the United States will compete for the \$1,000 award money in a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

In Omaha, KETV is planning a luncheon and award ceremony in honor of Loomis. At that time they will present him with a bronze coin in recognition of the Jefferson Award.

Shapiro also said that a half-hour program is being planned for Saturday, April 14 at 6 p.m., on KETV, highlighting some of the contributions Loomis has made to his community.