

gazette

VOL. XII No. 6

The Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha (GOARC)

November 1980

FOUR AREA DIRECTORS HIRED AT ENCOR

The ENCOR Area Management reorganization has taken a major step forward with the hiring of four of the five Area Directors. A job offer was extended to a fifth person who initially accepted the offer and then withdrew.

The Area Directors who assumed their posts on November 17th are:

Dr. Mike Nuschy, formerly an associate professor of Special Education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Dr. Nuschy has also worked in vocational and educational programs for mentally retarded citizens in Texas and the Greater Omaha area. He will serve as the Area Director for the Central Dougals County Area which is bordered by Fort Street on the north, Center Street on the south, the Douglas County line on the west, and Military/Radial/Saddle Creek on the east. He can be contacted at the Benson Industrial Training Center, 558-3121.

Kip Reusing, formerly the Residential Coordinator

for North/Northwest Residential Services and an Advisor with Child Guidance Services. Ms. Reusing is the author of a monograph on Individual Program Planning published by the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded, and has served on ENCOR's IPP Committee. Together with Janet Benton-Gaillard of Bellevue ITC, Ms. Reusing co-authored the basic and revised editions of the ENCOR adult assessment tool, the TSM-I (Training, Supervision, Maintenance and Independence). Ms. Reusing is the Area Director for North Douglas County, which is bordered by the County line on the north, west, and east, Fort Street/Saddle Creek/Center on the south. She may be reached at 444-6566.

Brian Lensch, formerly the Director of Residential Services for ENCOR. Mr. Lensch is a graduate of Dana College and has completed training in Human Services and Change Agency offered by Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger at Syracuse University. He is the Area Director for

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EXPANDED SERVICES TASK FORCE MOBILIZED

As increasing numbers of families in the area served by the Eastern Nebraska Community Office on Retardation (ENCOR) are discovering, ENCOR has not been able to keep pace with the rising demand for vocational and residential services. If the problem is not resolved, there will be a growing number of young people who need services, outside of the schools, who will be forced to either remain without those services, or remain on "waiting lists" for an unknown length of time.

In response, both the Association for Retarded Citizens of Nebraska (ARCNebraska) and the ARC of Greater Omaha (GOARC) have set up Expanded Services Task Forces. We believe that the problem can be solved through the combined efforts of families, legislators and locally elected officials, and advocates.

The first meeting of the task force has been scheduled for November 20th. All of the school districts in the Douglas/Sarpy County area have agreed to distribute announcements of that meeting through the school system, and ENCOR has agreed to distribute announcements through their guidance division.

This edition of the GAZETTE will be published after that initial meeting, but if you know someone who was not informed about the meeting, please have them call the GOARC office at 348-9220 and ask for Dan Costello.

ENCOR has also agreed to cooperate fully in the effort of the Task Force.

The overall goals of the Task Force center in four areas. First, we seek to end the isolation of families who are presently on waiting lists, or who are unsure of the future availability of services. Second, the Task Force will insure the dissemination of accurate information about the availability of services (what is a waiting list, how does one go about getting on a waiting list, how are people served off of the waiting list, etc.). Third, is the pursuit of a strategy to insure adequate appropriations for the coming fiscal year. And, fourth, we hope to engage in a long-range strategy to attempt to avoid this as an annually recurring problem.

The initial working of the Task Force will center on the appropriations requests for ENCOR. Uti-

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Editorial

The time has come to seriously address the issue of accountability.* In the generation since the founding of the Omaha Opportunity Center, in 1951, Omaha has seen a truly revolutionary dream take shape in the reality of community based programs and services for people with mental retardation.

But, in that 30 years there has not been an on-going, systematic, organized way to hold those who provide services accountable for the way in which they have translated the dream into reality.

It is true that we have intervened, advocated, interceded, supported, and criticized. But, we have not gone that next step to insure that the practice conforms to the dream — we have not developed the capacity to monitor those programs and services. Without that capacity there is no vehicle by which we can ever insure accountability on a day-to-day basis.

It was this issue which prompted the Planning Committee to recommend the establishment of monitoring teams, and the move to establish those teams has been swift.

The Report of the Planning Committee was adopted in July by the Board of Directors. In September the first questionnaire was included in the GAZETTE which enabled us to determine monitoring priorities. As a result of the survey, the ENCOR residential and vocational programs have been targeted. In October, the Administrative Services Committee passed guidelines for the monitoring teams. The training package is well underway and should be available to train the monitoring teams soon.

But, the critical element in the development of the monitoring teams remains to be completed. We must call upon the community to support the teams by volunteering to be a part of this effort.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT THE SERVICE PROVIDERS MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE; AND, IF YOU BELIEVE THAT MONITORING IS A TOOL TO ACHIEVE THAT ACCOUNTABILITY: THEN, PLEASE SERIOUSLY CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO BE A PART OF A MONITORING TEAM.

Ultimately, the question of accountability is a two-edged sword. Just as those who provide services and programs must be held accountable, so must those who have believed and fostered the dream be held accountable for its ultimate success or failure.

Without you none of it will happen.

I believe that service providers must be held accountable, and I would like to volunteer for a monitoring team.

NAME(S) _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE (home) _____ (work) _____
AREA OF INTEREST _____ RESIDENTIAL _____ VOCATIONAL _____

*I am partially indebted to Bridges: A Rationale for Residential Services, produced through the ARC National Research and Development Institute for the use of the concept of accountability in this context.

NEW STAFF

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Janet Ansell and on September 16th I replaced Glenda Davis as GOARC's Program Coordinator - which includes coordinating the Pilot Parent Program. I am extremely excited about the opportunity to work with this program and I am looking forward to meeting all of you.

For those of you who do not already know me, my involvement with Pilot Parents started 3½ years ago with the birth of my

daughter, Jennifer, who was born with Downs Syndrome. On the day my husband, Michael, and I were informed about Jennifer we were contacted by another couple from Pilot Parents whose child had Downs Syndrome. I can't express in words how grateful I am for the support I received from this program and all of the wonderful parents I have met.

Over the past two years I have served on the Board of Directors of both the Lincoln and Omaha ARC's and I was the chairperson of the fund raising committee for GOARC.

I would like to see us expand the family support service we offer beyond the support of parents of

newly diagnosed handicapped children to include groups of parents of adolescents and adults who need other types of support and assistance. Some of the referrals we are getting now are from parents with older individuals who need to talk to someone.

I would greatly appreciate it if those of you who have older handicapped individuals would contact me with your ideas on how to get this service started. I would like to know the kinds of questions YOU need answered and what kind of assistance YOU need. Please help me in this endeavor.

Let's work together to support one another.

Dear GAZETTE Reader,

Because of the importance of two issues covered in this edition of the GAZETTE, I would like to spend some additional time to discuss them with you.

The first issue is that of the QUALITY of services that are being provided to people with mental retardation in the greater Omaha area. There is only one way to insure that the services that are provided are good services. There is only one way to insure that the services that are provided are consistent with the philosophical principles on which we are founded. There is only one way to insure that the people receiving those services are benefitting and growing. That one way is to KNOW what is happening on the level of service delivery, and that means MONITORING.

The Adult Services Committee of the GOARC Board of Directors has already developed a monitoring tool. It is a simple way that any person who is interested can look at the vocational programs of ENCOR and make a judgement about the QUALITY of those services. The same tools will soon be available for residential monitoring through the Children's Services Committee.

You do not need to be a professional. You do not need to have a family member with a disability. You do not need to receive services yourself. WHAT YOU DO NEED IS A SINCERE DESIRE TO IMPROVE AND INSURE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES - and if you have that then you should volunteer for a monitoring team. One night a month could go a long way towards the knowledge that what Omaha offers is the best available!!!!!!!!!!!!

The second issue is that of the QUANTITY of services that are being provided to people with mental retardation in the greater Omaha area. Quite frankly there are more people who need vocational and residential services than there are services available. As a result, those who wish to obtain services in vocational and residential programs are placed on "waiting lists" for periods of up to several years - depending on the individual circumstances.

Just as the Monitoring teams were developed to address the issue of the QUALITY of services, we have developed the Expanded Services Task Force to address the issue of the QUANTITY of services. The immediate objective of the Expanded Services Task Force (ESTF) will be to mobilize sufficient support to insure the passage of an adequate level of appropriations during the next legislative session.

Because ENCOR is the largest and most significant vocational and residential service provider, ENCOR's programs are our primary focus. Because the most immediate and direct problem within ENCOR is the lack of sufficient funds, funding is our primary concern. Because appropriations from the State's General Fund, allocated through the legislative process, are the most flexible and accessible source of major funding for ENCOR, appropriations are our primary target.

These are the arguments for choosing our primary focus, concerns, and target. For each argument, however, there is a supplement which should guide us to secondary or supplementary efforts. ENCOR is not the only agency capable of, or mandated to, provide vocational services, therefore expanded services should include expanding the number of service providers. Funding is not the only problem within ENCOR, therefore other avenues (imagination, creativity, etc.) might be open within ENCOR itself. Finally, the State's General Fund money is not the only source of increased revenue, therefore other increased income sources should also be considered. Again, these efforts would be secondary to the primary goals of the ESTF.

In order to seek an adequate level of appropriations, we must do three things. First, we must make all of our elected officials aware of the general problem. I would ask that every reader of the GAZETTE write, today, to the Governor, your County Commissioner, and your State Senator in order to make him or her aware that there is a problem. Second, we must prepare a detailed appropriations request (in addition to the amount already requested by ENCOR in their woefully inadequate budget requests) that is designed to meet what we see as the needs to be met in the next 18 months. To this end if you believe that you will be requiring services for yourself or for a family member before July, 1982 - please call or write the GOARC office and give us the information (3212 Dodge St., Omaha, NE, 68131 or 348-9220). Third, we must mount a campaign designed to convince every State Senator that this is a priority item that demands his or her attention. To this end it would be very helpful for ALL interested persons to plan on attending the Legislative Workshop on January 13th and 14th, in Lincoln - especially plan on attending the Senatorial Appreciation Dinner on the evening of the 14th. We will have more information about the workshop and the dinner in the December edition of the GAZETTE (which I hope will go out on time)!

If the QUANTITY of services is not insured then the work that has been done to date with educational programs through the schools will go to waste with our citizens with retardation sitting at home, or worse. If the QUALITY of services is not insured then the work of a generation will be wasted.

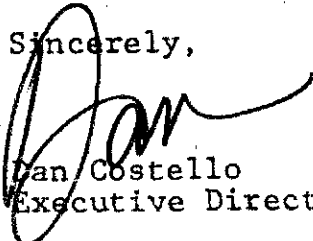
Success or failure in these endeavors relate directly to the first goal of the GOARC Planning Committee:

To promote and insure a continuum of services for people with mental retardation. Those services must be quality, comprehensive services.

The success or failure in these endeavors depends ultimately on whether the Omaha community, at large, cares about the people among us who have mental retardation.

Thank you for the time it took to read this letter.

Sincerely,


Dan Costello
Executive Director

---FOR MEMBERS ONLY---

Dear GOARC Member,

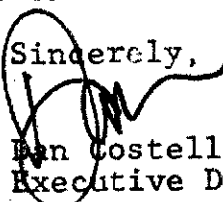
Over the past year, I hope that you have noticed some dramatic changes in the format, content, and tone of your GAZETTE. For the most part I believe that these changes have turned the GAZETTE back into a forum for issues and answers, and that the changes have been beneficial.

At the same time I have been concerned that our members who have a special stake in this Association need more, detailed information about some special activities. To this end I plan to include an insert "FOR MEMBERS ONLY" in every edition of the GAZETTE.

I hope to be able to discuss Board actions, staff activities, membership information, and to expand on any items contained in the GAZETTE proper which I believe the general membership should have more detailed knowledge about.

I hope that you, as a member of this Association, will let me know what you would like to know about, and what you would like to hear about in this special "FOR MEMBERS ONLY".

Sincerely,


Dan Costello
Executive Director

GUARDIAN - ENCOR has a client who will need a guardian in the near future. If you are interested in becoming the legal guardian for a 17 year old young man, please contact me at the GOARC office. (348-9220).

COMPANION - the office is often asked if there are any volunteers who would be interested in becoming a friend of a person with mental retardation - go on activities together, provide occasional companionship, etc. If you are interested in this kind of activity, please contact me at the office.

MEMBERSHIP - all GOARC memberships will expire in March, 1981. Please plan on renewing your membership at that time. YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN GOARC IS YOUR INVESTMENT IN A PROGRESSIVE FUTURE FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL RETARDATION IN THE OMAHA AREA!!

The next "FOR MEMBERS ONLY" will include a discussion of the November Board of Directors meeting, some notes about the office, and other items of interest.

BRANDEIS - the Brandeis Christmas Angel project seems to have little hope for great success this year unless people become aware of the angels - spread the word, if possible, and if YOU can, stop in and donate for an angel!

The Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha (GOARC) now has a number of speakers available through the SPEAKERS BUREAU.

Topics include:

Impact of a Child with Mental Retardation on Family Life
Impact of a Child with Mental Retardation on Siblings
Pilot Parents
Myths and Misconceptions about Mental Retardation
A Parent's View of Mental Retardation
Human and Legal Rights of Persons with Mental Retardation
Parental/Infant Bonding and Childbirth Education
Getting a Positive Word to Young People
The Philosophy of Normalization
Down Syndrome
Careers in the Human Service Field
Future Planning for Adults with Mental Retardation
Self-Advocacy
Estate Planning — Wills and Trusts for Parents
Validity in Testing
The Philosophy of De-Institutionalization
Emotional Development of Young People
Genetics and Genetic Counseling (does not include personal counseling)
Speech and Language Training
Sex Education for Persons with Mental Retardation

**To arrange for a speaker, call:
348-9220.**

The GOARC SPEAKERS BUREAU is a free service.

GOARC is a United Way Agency

Pilot Parents

—A great deal is happening with the Pilot Parent Program. There have been 19 referrals to the program since mid-September and various social events.

—On October 9th, we had a Salad Lunch at Grace Lutheran Church. Many of our newer mothers to the program were there with their babies. We had many delicious salads and a very enjoyable afternoon.

—November 2nd was the date for our hayride and cookout. Those who attended had a great time. The weather was certainly on our side.

—We have had 65 requests for Pilot Parent information from all across the United States and Canada. Of this 65, there were 15 manuals sold.

—Contacts have been made at a couple of hospitals to provide in-service presentations to the staff. As date commitments are made, I will be contacting people who said they would speak.

—We have had 2 visitors from foreign countries who have expressed interest in our program. A Wine and Cheese Party was given in honor of Sylvia Ker-mode from Liverpool, England. Marianne Fraser was our other guest. She is from Tasmania, Australia. Both ladies went home with manuals hoping to get programs started in their home town.

—A couple of parents in the program were a part of a panel called "Parents Speak Out" at the C.E.C. Conference, October 25th at the Old Mill Holiday Inn.

—We have a couple who adopted a child with Downs Syndrome who is very interested in working with adoption agencies to see that these agencies are aware of services in the communities for parents and handicapped children. They have a good idea and work is underway to see how to approach this issue.

—A mothers coffee is scheduled for November 21st at the Wesley House, 2001 North 35th Street. There is a new neighborhood coordinator there who is anxious to work with us.

—One of the hospitals in town is trying to get a parents support group together for parents who have children in intensive care. I have had many contacts with staff members at the hospital and I thought we might be of assistance to them, at least to the parents who have handicapped children. If any of you have ever had a child in intensive care and would be interested in giving support to another family, please contact me.

—In December, I will be giving a presentation on Pilot Parents to the staff at Lutheran Family Service.

—Plans are underway to begin a Pilot Parent training session in January. About 12 families will be attending.

BRIDGE THE GAP

by JoAnn Balcetis

It is already a well-known fact that when a home/school liaison is strong, learning for the severely and profoundly retarded student is greatly enhanced. Teachers and parents can easily work together to ensure continuity at home by encouraging parents and family to become familiar with their son's/daughter's school program.

If your son/daughter is presently attending the Omaha Public School Hartman School program, they should be working in a highly individualized program involving many areas of learning. Specific goals and objectives should already have been established for the year, written on an I.E.P., and explained to you at the I.E.P. conference. Each student should be evaluated to establish their present level of ability within each curriculum area. The areas to be evaluated include: Sensory Development (fine motor, tactile, visual, olfactory, gustatory), Cognitive Development, Social Skills, Living Skills, Self-Care, Language and Physical Education.

Throughout the day each student works on individualized tasks for which a task card has been written. These cards are used to record the specific task to be acquired, the materials to be used and the method of teaching. This aids the teachers and para-

professionals in maintaining continuity in each learning session. Task cards are also used to tally daily progress and performance of each student during every session. An evaluation of progress, teaching method and materials is to be done every two weeks (if involving a daily task) or after every 10 sessions. If the percentage for results is consistently low, the teacher should be willing to consider other options, such as breaking a task down into smaller steps, trying a new method or materials.

Each task should be taught as consistently as possible and in the same manner or method. It would be helpful to obtain from school a specific task analysis in order to use the same approach at home. As when teaching your son/daughter to master self-care skills such as teeth brushing and combing hair.

Frequent communication between home and school is important in strengthening skills, learning new tasks and understanding any behavioral problems. Trying to maintain at least a weekly contact either by phone, visit or short note can help tremendously in encouraging a positive transfer of learning.

JoAnn Balcetis is an instructor at Hartman School and a member of the GOARC Board of Directors.

The GAZETTE is the publication of the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens (GOARC). All articles (signed or unsigned) reflect the opinion of their author(s). All articles submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. Articles should be signed and submitted by the first of the month for publication the following month. Readers are urged to submit articles or letters to the editor!

ENCOR continued from p. 1

South Douglas County, which is bordered by Center Street on the North, the Douglas County line on the east and west, and the Sarpy County line on the south. He may be reached at 444-6561.

Bob Brinker, formerly the Coordinator of Residential Services for South/Southwest and Cass-Sarpy. Mr. Brinker is a graduate of the Social Work Department of UNO, and has worked at every level of ENCOR's residential program. He is the Area Director for Cass and Sarpy Counties and can be reached at 291-0373.

The position left unfilled is the Area Director for Dodge and Washington Counties. Until a new Area Director is hired, the Vocational and Residential supervisors are reporting directly to ENCOR Director Kevin Casey. At the November 19th Governing Board meeting, Mr. Casey stated that he was considering naming an Acting Area Director to handle the administration of the Area.

The hiring process for Area Management is continuing with the selection of Vocational and Residential Program Coordinators. These coordinators will be responsible for developing and supervising the entire continuum of services in their respective disciplines. Hopefully, these positions will be filled before the end of January.

The change-over to Area Management will not have an immediate effect on most clients. Programs will continue to operate as before, and any moves that might be desired by the Administrators will first be discussed by the IPP Team; no moves should be made that will result in a program that is not comparable or better than the current one.

In the event a client move is scheduled, and the client or family objects, the move may be appealed to the Human and Legal Rights Committee. The ENCOR Advisors will assist clients and families and provide detailed information on the appeals to those who need it.

by Tim Butz

TASK FORCE continued from p. 1

mately, however, the success of a comprehensive availability of services will demand action on a larger scale. Those generic service providers in the ENCOR area must begin to shoulder their appropriate share of the responsibility for serving people with mental retardation (Vocational Rehabilitation comes to mind rather promptly). ENCOR must begin to renew its capacity to move people through the vocational system and into competitive placements — a capacity which seems to have been lost over the past several years. The State Legislature must recognize that adequate funding must be made available to all service providers who meet their responsibilities. And, perhaps more than any other thing, the spirit of innovation and imagination that was the hallmark of the first half decade of community programs must return.

We believe that the Expanded Services Task Force will entail several months of concentrated effort. The GAZETTE will continue to highlight the activities of the Task Force.

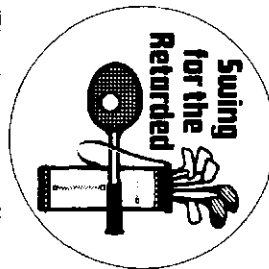
THANKS OMAHA!!

for a

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Honey Sunday

1980



This issue compliments of Swing for the Retarded

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Omaha, NE 68131

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gazette



VOL. XII No. 5

The Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha (GOARC)

October, 1980

ENCOR/ENHSA REPS MEET WITH BOARD

Over the past three weeks, members of the GOARC Board of Directors, and GOARC staff have met with representatives of ENCOR employees and ENCOR/ENHSA Administration, in an attempt to resolve concerns which were presented to the GOARC Board by the ENCOR Employees Association.

On September 9th, representatives of the ENCOR Employees Association (a fledgling association of employees joining together to protect what they see as their interests and the interests of the clients they serve) delivered a letter of concern to the GOARC Board.

The letter expressed the concern that a change in the balance of authority between ENCOR and ENHSA was occurring which would, ultimately, have negative impact on the delivery of services. (ENCOR is the local agency established in 1969 which delivers services for people with mental retardation as a part

of the Inter-local agreement between Dodge, Sarpy, Washington, Cass and Douglas Counties. ENHSA is the umbrella agency established in 1974 which administers accounting, personnel, transportation, maintenance, and administration functions for ENCOR and the agencies delivering services for mental health and aging in this Region.)

The letter delivered to the GOARC Board pointed out five areas which the Employees Association considered as indicative of the problem. First, ENCOR employees felt unable to criticize ENHSA for fear of punishment. Second, they questioned the hiring practices at one of the ENCOR workshops. Third, they pointed out the the elimination of employee input with the elimination of the Personnel Action Committee. Fourth, they indicated that personnel actions by ENHSA had deprived ENCOR of the

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TOUCHE ROSS REPORT RELEASED

Earlier this year, the State of Nebraska commissioned the firm of Touche Ross & Co., to evaluate the costs of providing services for people with mental retardation within the state. The report has been issued and contains some facts and implications which are crucial to the continued development of community services.

The report addresses four areas, with conclusions and supportive figures in each area.

First, how do the costs of services within the Community Based Mental Retardation (CBMR) Regions differ from costs of services at the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC)?

In every CBMR Region, except Region VI, the costs of providing services in all five program areas (residential, day training, support, social services, medical, and administrative) for an average client were significantly lower than the costs of the equivalent services for the average BSDC client. The costs in the CBMR Regions varied from a high of \$19,700 in Region VI to a low of \$9,400 in Region III. The average cost at BSDC is \$19,500.

The cost for providing services for a client classified as "high need" in Region VI (the most costly program-

ming) was \$4,100 higher annually than BSDC. This high figure is caused by size of residence, staffing ratio, and the number of children served by Region VI. This figure for "high need" clients was offset by the mix of client types within the Regional programs, when the averages above were formulated.

Second, how do the costs of services between Regions differ? As the figures above indicate, there is a substantial difference. The explanation of those differences rests on differences in the size of residential settings, differences in staffing patterns, and differences in administrative arrangement. Region VI's functional management under an umbrella agency seems to be more costly than the relatively independent management by areas in the other five Regions.

Third, what would be the impact on costs of services by the placement of either 1) 209 persons, or 2) 430 persons from BSDC into the CBMR Regions.

The costs to provide services rise both at the community level and the institutional level as more persons are placed outside of the institution. Total costs (including both increases in BSDC and the CBMR Regions), will rise \$261,300 if 209 persons are placed, and

Continued on p. 4

1981 Elections

As a part of its Advocacy Program, the Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha (GOARC) asked candidates for both the State Legislature and County Commissioner (in Douglas and Sarpy Counties) to respond to two questions - which could then be printed in the GAZETTE.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Candidates for State Legislature were asked the following questions:

1) "Let us assume that there are citizens with mental retardation, in Nebraska, who need services, and who are eligible for services under state statute and regulation. Would you be willing to exceed the arbitrary 7% limit on state spending to insure that the needed services are provided. Yes, or no, and why?

2) Would you support legislation, consistent with federal and state constitutional and legislative restrictions, which would guarantee all disabled persons the right to receive needed services in the least restrictive environment. Yes, no, and why?

We have grouped the answers by Legislative District. All candidates were mailed the questions. Where there is no response we have so indicated.

5TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Bernice LaBedz - no response

7TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Pat Venditte - no response

Karen Kilgarin - 1) . . . The funding question you raise may not be so much a problem with the 7% lid itself as with the spending priorities the Legislature sets within that limit. The state spending lid was self-imposed by the Legislature. It is now up to the Legislature to set priorities within that limit -- certainly, meeting the needs of citizens with mental retardation should be a high priority deserving full support, as part of the Legislature's proper function to provide services, and this priority has been neglected for too long a time. A real commitment to it should produce adequate funding. If it does not, then we should re-evaluate the spending lid, and I would certainly consider that. But I believe that we owe it to the people of the state as a whole, afflicted with ever-rising property taxes, to first see if we can "get our act together" and provide needed services within the context of the lid.

2) I would support such legislation. Experts in the field have called for it, have demonstrated that it need not be expensive, and enacting such legislation -- consistent with federal and state constitutional and legislative restrictions -- would be well within the proper scope and function of the Legislature.

9TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Ray Powers - no response

Marge Higgins - 1) If GOARC members are willing to give of their time to see that the retarded actually are getting what the taxpayers intend for THEM to receive, (for example will GOARC look into wasteful spending, make visits to residences, and monitor ENHSA - especially the renting of a practically inaccessible \$72,000 a year office space for headquarters) then Marge Higgins will not only vote to raise the 7% spending limit but will spearhead the fight for it. But first, we need to know where the money now goes. My idea of top priority is to pay higher wages for houseparents and lower wages for paper shufflers. Our retarded citizens deserve the best, loving and devoted care and attention we can give them. This does not come through \$72,000 a year office buildings.

2) I would support legislation guaranteeing all disabled persons the right to receive services in the least restrictive environment BUT, I think parents' rights come first in determining this. A bill could be written to make exceptions where a parent is actually working to the detriment of a child. This would be the exception to the rule, as I perceive this type of parent as being a very small minority.

11TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Ernie Chambers - no response

Betty Kubicek - no response

13TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Dave Newell - 1) First, let me say that I have enjoyed a close working relationship with NebARC and its very effective lobbyist Dave Powell. Since my election in 1976 I have supported every legislative request of NebARC and GOARC including the difficult requests of overriding the Governor's veto. I would prefer to reallocate state appropriations requests so that GOARC's requests would be fully funded within the 7% guidelines. Yet if this cannot be done I will very favorably consider your requests.

2) My answer must be philosophical yes; however, I reserve the political right to consider each piece of legislation as it is submitted and amended during the legislative process.

George Syas - 1) Yes, I am proud of my legislative record of supporting legislation in the interest of the mentally retarded.

2) Yes, however, I feel that there are some persons that must be in a restricted environment.

31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Russ Sawyer - 1) I would handle the situation with proposal I intend to make if elected. I think each agency should be financed with zero based budgeting. Each year they should show the need for any increase in funding bearing in mind that the 7% limit for the entire State budget be kept in mind. If an agency such as yours needed an increase of 10% and another agency needed an increase of 3% it would certainly be logical to fund them accordingly. I am not pleased that the 7% limit turns out to be a 7% minimum also.

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Politics, 1980 continued from p. 2

2) I would continue to support such legislation. In a society such as ours, we must help those that cannot help themselves, and those who can be taught to help themselves should have the opportunity to learn.

Steve Wiitala - 1) Yes. Services for the mentally handicapped in America are still in the developmental stages, especially when compared to the progress achieved in several Western European countries. At a time when local communities are just becoming aware of the possibilities for the care of the handicapped, budget limitations and federal cutbacks prevent recognized and needed programs and services from being fully implemented. The public has long shouldered the responsibility for the care of the mentally handicapped and will continue its support even if it means exceeding the 7% limitation. The state's lid was intended to curb waste, not lay waste to its most unfortunate citizens.

2) Yes. Not all mentally handicapped persons need to be permanently institutionalized. Many can live equally as well in transitional living facilities which provide the needed security and stability that their lives demand. Coupled with vocational training and sheltered workshops, many of the mentally handicapped earn their own keep. Every effort must be made to allow the mentally handicapped to make their contribution to society and enable them to reach for their own individual fulfillment.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Candidates for County Commissioner - Douglas/Sarpy Counties - were asked the following questions:

1) Would you be willing to support an increase in the Douglas/Sarpy County contribution to the funding of programs for people with mental retardation? If so, where would you seek the revenue? If not, why not?

2) What specific actions do you believe that you, as County Commissioner, could take to improve the employment opportunity within Douglas/Sarpy County for people with mental retardation?

All candidates were mailed the questions. Where there is no response we have so indicated.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Pat Haller - no response

Daniel Salen - no response

Judy Smith - no response

Louis Lamberty - 1) I fully support the community based concept for mental retardation programs. The level of funding for every County program must be fully justified annually at budget time. If an increase in funding for mental retardation is needed and that need thoroughly demonstrated, then I would wholeheartedly support an increase. Any increase in funding would have to come from property taxes.

2) As a County Commissioner, I could do two things to improve employment opportunities for people with mental retardation: a) give strong public support

through media, speeches, etc., and b) make contacts with employers with whom I have a good personal relationship.

Dan Lynch - 1) As a new member of the ENHSA Board, I was able to increase Douglas County contribution from \$1,230,000 to \$1,500,000 based on legitimate unmet needs for both clients and staff.

2) By taking a more active role with the business community, and our ENCOR staff and advocate groups, in a more aggressive client employment effort.

Steve McCollister 1) Generally, yes. The best government is one where all necessary services to individuals, but particularly to all handicapped people, are provided in an efficient and quality manner at the local level at the lowest possible taxpayer cost. Money to fund new programs should first come from old programs which have served their purposes or found not to be effective. While I will not support tax increases for the Citizens of Douglas County, additional revenue will come from traditional sources through efficiency and with a major renewed effort toward individual, State, and Federal grants.

2) The success of an employment program for mentally retarded and otherwise handicapped individuals depends on the involvement of employers. I propose a renewed effort - and personal participation as a Commissioner - on a Citizens Committee for the Employment of the Handicapped. The Committee should consist of employers, County (and perhaps City) Officials, and GOARC staff. The Committee should use the media and make personal calls on other employers to encourage the employment of the retarded and physically handicapped.

SARPY COUNTY

Ed Gilbert - no response

Ray Lind - no response

Buford Shivers - no response

Blase Cupich - 1) Yes, revenue sharing.

2) Put more effort in seeking employment opportunities in the non-profit area, i. e. schools, city hall, court house, etc.

Jack Katz - 1) Yes, I would be willing to support an increase in Sarpy County's contribution to the funding of programs for people with mental retardation. I would seek the revenue out of existing funds if possible and I would also pursue the possibility of increasing Sarpy County's portion of Federal revenues available in this area.

2) As a Sarpy County Commissioner I would make the following requests to all divisions of Sarpy County: a) That every effort be made to provide employment opportunities for people with mental retardation. (b) That the various Sarpy County employment areas work closely with your office to develop new opportunities for people with mental retardation so that new job openings might be provided.

Touche Ross continued from p. 1
\$456,200 if 430 persons are placed.

Factors influencing the cost rise at the community level include the factors listed above under the explanation of Region VI cost levels. Rising institutional costs relate very directly to the fact that certain fixed expenditures at an institution can only be minimized to a certain point - regardless of numbers of persons served.

Fourth, what are the implications of the placement outlined above on funding sources.

Without changes, by the State of Nebraska, in the existing regulation governing Title XIX, even though the overall cost increase would be as indicated above \$261,300/\$456,200, the shift in funding sources would mean a \$2-\$4.3 million increased burden in State expenditures with a corresponding drop in Federal and County contribution.

Were those changes made, however, and an adjustment formulated to offset county burdens, the overall impact to State/County finances would be greatly minimized and the bulk of the burden shifted back to the federal government.

In summary, the Report indicates that it is more expensive to service persons with higher needs; it is more expensive to service persons in a small residential setting with a high staffing ratio than it is to serve large numbers of people, together, with lower staffing ratios; it is more economical - given the range of persons served - to serve persons in a setting in the community which can recognize their growth and movement; and, if there is a substantial increase in cost to the State of Nebraska because of the movement of people out of the institution it will be because the State has not designed its regulations and implementation of Title XIX with enough forethought to the cost implications. The report also makes it clear that the continued movement of persons to more independent setting continues to lower the costs of service, and that management/administration decisions in the CBMR Regions can continue to reduce cost levels in those programs.

ENCOR/ENHSA continued from p. 1

responsibility to write and promulgate their own job description for Area Directors under the Area Management scheme. Fifth, that ENHSA had substituted a format for the hiring process of Area Directors which had eliminated philosophy and objectivity from the hiring process.

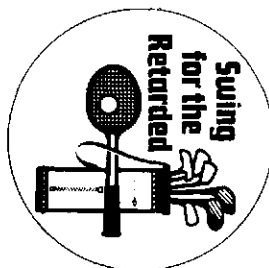
The underlying principles, of course, are two-fold. First, that decisions about services to persons with mental retardation are best if made closest to the client (i.e. ENCOR would know more about a person's needs than ENHSA - in the same way that State control over the Regional programs has been opposed because of the fear that removal of decision-making away from the person receiving the services will lead to a reduction in quality of services.) Second, that the low morale within staff at ENCOR leads to high turnover and ultimately to questions about quality of services provided.

In response to the concerns, 10 members of the GOARC Board met with representatives of the Employees Association on the evening of the 9th. As a result of that meeting, Ray Christensen, Director of ENHSA, and Kevin Casey, Director of ENCOR, were

invited to the GOARC Board meeting on the 16th to discuss the issues raised - as those issues related to the quality of services within ENCOR.

Two items were clarified. First, Mr. Christensen publicly announced that no ENCOR employee would be disciplined for speaking out against ENHSA. Second, Mr. Christensen made it clear that the final decision as to the persons hired for the position of Area Director would be Kevin Casey's.

The remaining issues, however, were left in varying degrees of uncertainty. No discussion of hiring practices at the workshops took place. It is clear that there were two job descriptions for Area Directors, and two hiring procedures. One set was developed by ENCOR, and one set developed by the ENHSA Personnel Department. It remains unclear, partially because the documents are not yet available, to what extent the two differed, and to what extent this rather novel intrusion into a previously uncharted area for ENHSA will have impact on the quality of services.



This issue compliments of Swing for the Retarded

SHIRLEY DEAN
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885 SO. 72ND ST.
OMAHA, NE 68114

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Omaha, NE 68131

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gazette



VOL. XII No. 4

The Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha (GOARC)

September, 1980

Planning Committee Report Adopted

At the July meeting of the Board of Directors, the report of the 1979-80 Planning Committee was presented, and approved.

The Planning Committee report sets the focus and direction for the Association. The work of the Planning Committee spanned the first six months of 1980.

The first task of the committee was to summarize and consolidate the goal statements that had been drawn up by all of the standing committees of the Board. From this process the Planning Committee developed three goals for GOARC:

1) TO PROMOTE AND INSURE A CONTINUUM OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL RETARDATION. THE SERVICES MUST BE COMPREHENSIVE AND APPROPRIATE.

2) TO PROMOTE AND INSURE A CONTINUUM OF SERVICES FOR THE PARENTS AND FAMILIES OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL RETARDATION.

3) TO CREATE A POSITIVE CLIMATE OF PUBLIC SUPPORT, AWARENESS, AND ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH MENTAL RETARDATION.

In order to achieve the first goal, the Planning Committee recommended that the Adult and Children's Services Committees develop two, volunteer-based task forces. The first task force will monitor the delivery of services to insure the quality of those services

The second task force will work with individuals and families to assist in those areas where access to appropriate services might be denied, or difficult. **YOU WILL FIND A SURVEY SHEET AS AN INSERT TO THIS GAZETTE - IN ORDER TO HELP PRIORITIZE OUR TARGET AREAS, WOULD YOU FILL OUT THE SURVEY FORM AND RETURN IT TO US?**

In addition to these tasks, the Planning Committee recommended that GOARC 1) assist in the development of new models of services to fill identified gaps and inadequacies, 2) support the legislative efforts of the state ARC (see P. 2 - Editorial), and 3) continue its support of current program areas.

To achieve the second goal, the Planning Committee felt that it was crucial to continue the Pilot Parent program as well as expand the Association services to cover families whose sons/daughters were either adolescents or young adults. In addition the Planning Committee voiced its support for GOYARC.

To achieve the third goal, the Planning Committee recommended a strong public advocacy program including the Speaker's Bureau, public service announcements, brochures, and the development of a Media Resources Advisory Committee.

These goals and tasks have been forwarded to each committee of the Board of Directors who have already begun to implement the proposals.

Innovative Approaches Sought for ENCOR Vocational Program

As a result of GOARC's monitoring of the ENHSA Board, the Association volunteered its resources in an effort to improve the vocational services of ENCOR, and we have been asked to prepare a presentation on vocational alternatives by the Chairman of the ENHSA Board, Mr. Don Claasen.

To assist in this "brainstorming" effort, GOARC has asked all of its members to join in making recommendations in three areas: 1) vocational placement innovations, 2) vocational training innovations, and 3) "sheltered workshop" innovations.

WHETHER YOU ARE A MEMBER OF GOARC,
CONTINUED ON P. 3

85% Approve Positions

In June the following four-part position was submitted to the GOARC membership for approval:

1) Given an equal quantity and quality of services available in an institution and the community, a person is better served in the community.

2) There is nothing about the condition of mental retardation which requires isolation and segregation.

3) The close proximity of the person with mental retardation to his/her family and community benefits the person, the family, and the community.

4) Parents have a right to be an equal part of the decision making about their son/daughter, and have the right to equal access to all appeal processes that are available.

CONTINUED ON P. 3

EDITORIAL

We believe that there is a potentially dangerous conflict arising over what appears to be the opposing interests of two groups.

On the one hand are those people with mental retardation who have been receiving services through the public schools in the Omaha community, and who are about to leave the school system.

On the other hand are those people with mental retardation who are from the Omaha community, who have been confined in the Beatrice State Development Center, and who are scheduled to return to the Omaha community for services.

The scenario is unfortunately familiar. Students leaving the school system, whose parents have had faith in the value of community services and who have been able to keep their sons/daughters with the family, have "no place to go". The present service structure of ENCOR is unable to absorb new clients — except in rare instances and through attrition.

At the same time, the consent decree in the Horachek case, and funding through DPI allow some former residents of the Omaha area to return from Beatrice and obtain the services they need from ENCOR.

We suggest that this appears to be an opposition in interests, because the only resolution of the problem lies in the expansion of community services so both groups can be served in their communities. If we support one "side" over another "side" we will never be able to resolve the conflict in a meaningful way.

Neither returnees from Beatrice, nor community residents should be denied **THEIR RIGHT TO RECEIVE THE SERVICES THEY NEED**. And, at the same time, the quality of those services must be of the highest caliber.

To address the issue of the quality of services provided, GOARC's Adult and Children's Services Committees are beginning the process of monitoring those services (see p. 1 — Planning Committee Report), and will advocate for any needed changes.

To address the issue of expanded services, GOARC is working with and through the Governmental Affairs Committee of the state Association to provide a legislative mandate for services.

The ultimate success of these ventures, however, rests on the ability of all of those concerned — parents of children of all ages, professionals, and interested citizens — to join together to resolve the **COMMON** problems.

We would strongly urge any reader who is interested in working to resolve these two issues to contact the GOARC office and volunteer to work with either the monitoring task forces, or the Governmental Affairs Committee. Call 348-9220 and ask for Dan Costello if you can give of your time and energy for these efforts.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

For several years now our association has been struggling with the question of how to effectively respond to the vocal demands of the Mental Retardation Association of America, which advocates the continued placement of many of our mentally retarded citizens in state institutions. The MRAA in Nebraska claims about 300 members, but it has been the work of no more than five or six very active, very vocal and somewhat influential people living in Lincoln that has drawn most of the attention to that organization. They have done considerable damage to our cause because they are willing to fervently speak out to the Governor, State Senators, and other government officials on the important issues. In the last session of the Nebraska legislature, the leading legislative priority of the State ARC, a limited guardianship bill, was stalled in committee because of the opposition of MRAA.

On August 8th and 9th, together with representatives of the Congress of Advocates for the Retarded, Inc. from New York, held a widely publicized conference in Lincoln. The session which had the largest attendance attracted only 60 people, which included five people from the State ARC who were quietly monitoring the session, and 10 employees of the State Department of Public Institutions. One ARC representative tape-recorded the session.

The tone of the meeting was that of a revival, and the speeches were based on emotion rather than fact. Some of the themes espoused by MRAA representatives included:

- "Mentally retarded people that live in the community are being taken advantage of, are lost, are living in terrible conditions, are dying."
- "The institution is the least restrictive environment for most retarded persons."
- "We are the parents and no one has ever heard from the parents, but if we unite, they will."
- "The courts and U.S. Justice Department are against us."
- "The ARC is out to close all institutions."
- "ARC sponsors genetic counselling and abortion."

As an organization, MRAA is very weak. There is not doubt, however, that it is becoming more sophisticated and its influence is spreading. There is evidence that in some parts of the country its activities are being supported by donations from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, a union which represents the employees of many state institutions. The MRAA has also hired the J. Walter Thompson Agency, the world's largest advertising agency, to help place its representatives on network television talk shows this season.

In the past, GOARC's response all too often has been no response, with the hope that MRAA would gradually die away. It has not died away, and it is now imperative that we respond. MRAA opposes the fundamental principles on which the ARC movement is based. We can no longer sit idly by and allow this extremely small group of people to use its scare tactics and distorted facts to influence the public's perception of the mentally retarded. For every tax dollar they successfully divert to support the institutions, that much less funding is available to expand and improve community programs.

We can effectively and convincingly respond to MRAA by selling what the ARC movement and community programs have going for them. We need to educate the community at large on the things we are doing for the mentally retarded, for their families, and for this community.

CONTINUED ON P. 3

The GAZETTE is the publication of the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens (GOARC). All articles (signed or unsigned) reflect the opinion of their author(s). All articles submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. Articles should be signed and submitted by the first of the month for publication the following month. Readers are urged to submit articles or letters to the editor!

WILL YOU HELP US IN SETTING PRIORITIES FOR OUR MONITORING AND ASSISTANCE TASK FORCES BY TAKING A FEW MINUTES TO FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE?

In order to insure the quality of existing services for people with mental retardation in the greater Omaha area, the Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha (GOARC) is recruiting and training volunteers to monitor those services. Which of the following providers of services for persons with mental retardation do you believe should be monitored first (check only one):

ENCOR _____ Omaha Public Schools _____ Millard Public Schools _____ District 66 Public Schools

Bellevue Public Schools _____ Ralston Public Schools _____ Other _____

None, I do not believe that any of these providers need to be monitored.

None, I do not believe that GOARC should be monitoring any of these providers.

If you checked ENCOR would you please indicate which of ENCOR's existing services you feel should be monitored first (check only one):

<u>Vocational</u>	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Guidance/Advisory</u>	<u>Other</u>

If YOU would like to be a part of a monitoring team please give us your name, address, and phone - also indicate your preference if you wish to be involved in monitoring a specific provider or service.

[illegible]

In order to provide assistance in those cases where the intervention of an "outside" advocate could help resolve problems that arise in the delivery of existing services, GOARC is recruiting and training volunteers. The assistance task forces will specialize in one particular area of interest. Would you indicate what problem area (or potential problem area) should receive attention first (check only one):

Individual Education Plans (I.E.P.'s) Individual Program Plans (I.P.P.'s)

_____ Abuse/neglect _____ Job Discrimination _____ Discrimination in education

Other _____

None, I do not believe that "outside" advocacy is needed.

None, I do not believe that GOARC should provide "outside" advocacy.

If YOU would like to be a part of an assistance team please give us your name, address, and phone - also indicate your preference if you wish to be involved in assisting in a specific area.

[illegible]

ENGLAND!

By Tom Houlihan

I really love England. I left my heart in England. I stayed with four or five different families. I did a lot of sightseeing as well. I saw downtown London, and I was really impressed with the office of the Campaign for the Mentally Handicapped. We visited a Social Services Department which takes care of a section of London. It was very impressive also. Some of the sights we saw were Big Ben, Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, The Houses of Parliament, and quite a few London pubs.

Some of the people I stayed with were Alan Tyne, Mr. & Mrs. Wald, Paul Williams' family, a lady named Oxana, and Hugh Firth and Melinda Shaw. They live in several different cities. We also visited Anne Shearer and Chris Heginbotham of The Campaign and the Seymours from Goring. The Seymours have a daughter with Downs Syndrome and they belong to a very active organization called Downs Syndrome Association.

I gave several talks while I was in England. People responded pretty well. They seemed very impressed

at times, at times they were shocked, and sometimes they didn't seem to care what I said. They were shocked most when I asked the parents what would happen to their sons and daughters after they are gone. Most of them were too scared to answer, because they don't know what will happen. One lady gave me a big hand when I said that she said it was an important question.

We took a lot of pictures. We had some rain, but the weather was sunny most of the time. We were very lucky, because England is usually cold and rainy. The scenery was beautiful.

Another thing that was funny was that I could never get iced tea over there. All I could get was hot tea. They eat a lot of the same food as we do, but they also eat different things, like Shepherd's Pie and Hot Pot.

On the last leg of the trip I met Vince Gorman, who lives even further north. We were unable to visit his home because our trip was too short. The last thing I want to say is that the people were very, very friendly toward a person who has Downs Syndrome. Like I said before, I left my heart over there.

12 MONTH SCHOOL DENIED on APPEAL

By Parents for Appropriate Education

Parents for Appropriate Education received a Final Decision and Order on their appeal to the State Department of Education regarding twelve month schooling for their severely, multiply handicapped children. Although the State Department did not recommend the twelve month program, significant progress was made in improving the quality of the children's individual programs. Dr. John Hollis of the University of Kansas, Bureau of Child Research and an Associate Professor of Human Development testified during the hearing that two of the three children included in the appeal had inappropriate and inadequate programs. Omaha Public Schools has been ordered to implement his recommendations.

Other parents who do not feel their children's programs are appropriate should contact their child's school for reevaluation.

At this time we are looking into the possibility of other agencies working with us to set up programs for the summer.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FROM P. 2

We have a broad range of programs that they do not have. We offer almost everything on the services spectrum from recreation to self advocacy, while they have only one thing to offer—the institution. For every horror story which they fabricate to appeal to the fears of loving parents, we must be prepared to respond with factual success stories. When it is asserted that severely and profoundly retarded people need the "security" of an institution, we must be able to document the fact that these people are receiving higher quality services at less cost in community settings.

If each member of GOARC, whose membership exceeds the support MRAA claims state-wide, was as vocal and fervent in his or her demands as those five or six people representing MRAA, the support and attention we could draw to the ARC movement and community-based programs would be overwhelming.

At the September General Membership Meeting on September 18th, we will be presenting a forum on "Why and How Should the Severely and Profoundly Retarded Persons be Served in the Community." I hope to see you there.

Craig J. Fecker*
President

*My thanks to Dave Powell, Executive Director of NebARC, for his assistance on this Report.

SURVEY FROM P. 1

An overwhelming 25% of the membership responded.

Of those responding, 85% favored the position. 2% of those responding favored a "stronger" position on de-institutionalization. The remaining 13% felt that they could not agree with the statements. Opposition to the position cited two arguments 1) that severely and profoundly retarded persons could and should not be served in a community setting, or 2) that parents should have the ultimate decision making power about the fate of their sons/daughters.

We would like to thank those who participated, and those who contributed supporting material(s).

VOCATIONAL FROM P. 1

OR NOT, WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS ON WAYS IN WHICH ENCOR COULD MAKE ITS VOCATIONAL SERVICES MORE MEANINGFUL, MORE APPROPRIATE, AND MORE INNOVATIVE. Please forward any suggestions to GOARC, 3212 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68131 — Attn: Executive Director.

The suggestions which we receive will be summarized by the Adult Services Committee and the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. Results of the "brainstorming" will be presented to Mr. Claasen, and published in the Gazette.

ARC Neb 500 Club

By: Dave Powell

The 500 Club is a fun, easy way to support the ARC-Nebraska to have your cake and eat it too. Each month 500 Club members send in \$5.00. 40% of all donations are given away in monthly drawings.

With the maximum 500 members the following cash prizes will be awarded:

1st prize — \$300
2nd through 5th prizes — \$100 each
6th through 10th prizes — \$60 each

We will be starting the 500 club once we receive 100 members. Again we will take 40% of the proceeds and award:

30% of the total to be awarded — 1st prize
10% of the total to be awarded to each of the 2nd through 5th prize winners
6% of the total to be awarded to each of the 6th through 10th prize winners

Membership in the 500 Club is open to everyone, not just ARC members. Once you join, all you have to do is send \$5.00 per month. Actually its easier for us and you if you send in multiples of \$5.00 to cover the same number of months.

We encourage you to join. It is a fun way to support the financial needs of our state Association. To join send: 1) Your name and address, and 2) \$5.00 to:

500 Club
ARC-Nebraska
3100 No. 14th
Lincoln, NE 68521

Pilot Parents

Over 100 people attended the annual Pilot Parent Picnic held on July 21st at the Cooper Farm. The event brought together families from all aspects of the Pilot Parent program. In addition to mounds and mounds of food, everyone enjoyed games, prizes, a pinata, and popsicles for dessert.

Glenda Davis, who has coordinated the Pilot Parent program for GOARC for the past 9 months, has resigned to take another position. A new coordinator will be named September 1. Members of the Advisory Committee have stepped in to cover the program in the interim period. We all wish Glenda success in her new position, and look forward to working with her as a volunteer.

Pilot Parent training is scheduled to begin in the late Fall. Anyone interested in participating in the training should call the office (348-9220). Dates and topics are to be announced.

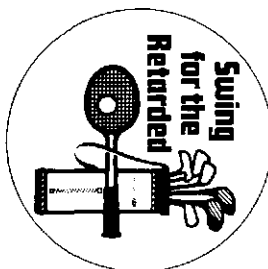
etc.,etc.,etc.,etc.,

Dr. Ed Skarnulis, past president and long-time friend of GOARC, has been named to head the community based mental retardation program of the State of Kentucky. Members and friends wishing to contact Ed may write: 1132A Mt. Rushmore St., Lexington, KY, 40502.

United Cerebral Palsy of Nebraska is planning a seminar entitled "Growing Up and Out" as a part of their annual meeting on September 12 and 13, at the Rodeway Inn, in Omaha. For details of the impressive schedule contact U.C.P.

The Happy Hogs CB Club Annual Jamboree will be held on September 20 - 21, at the National Guard Armory at 69th and Mercy Road. The Jamboree will include door prizes, exhibitions and booths, and a show and dance Saturday the 21st featuring Butterfield Express with Kelly Dawn. For more information call the office of GOARC - 348-9220. Proceeds from the Jamboree are contributed to GOARC.

This issue compliments of Swing for the Retarded



GOARC
3212 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68131

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ADVOCACY NETWORK

THE INFORMATION COMING TO YOU IN THIS MAILING IS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE ADVOCACY NETWORK OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS OF GREATER OMAHA (GOARC).

THE ADVOCACY NETWORK IS OUR ATTEMPT TO KEEP A BROAD RANGE OF PEOPLE IN THE OMAHA AREA ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS IN THE FIELD OF MENTAL RETARDATION.

THE ADVOCACY NETWORK IS A FREE SERVICE OF GOARC, AND THERE IS NO OBLIGATION ON YOUR PART.

WE HAVE INCLUDED YOUR NAME AS A PART OF THE NETWORK - IF YOU WOULD PREFER NOT TO BE A PART OF THE NETWORK, PLEASE RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION OF THIS FLYER AND WE WILL REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE MAILING LIST.

THE INFORMATION DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE ADVOCACY NETWORK WILL INCLUDE INFORMATION LIKE THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS MAILING.

THANK YOU - WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL STAY WITH US AS A PART OF THE ADVOCACY NETWORK!!

A service of the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens (GOARC)

GOARC
3212 DODGE ST.
OMAHA, NE 68131

NO, I WOULD PREFER NOT TO RECEIVE INFORMATION THROUGH THE ADVOCACY NETWORK - PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME FROM THE MAILING LIST.

NAME

ADDRESS

ZIP

City of Omaha Parks and Recreation Division -- Adaptive Recreation

Organized to provide disabled or special needs individuals the opportunity to be involved in year round recreation programs within the community. The goal of the program is to provide its participants with the opportunity to develop confidence and the ability to constructively use their leisure time.

WANTED! VOLUNTEERS

To work with

ADAPTIVE RECREATION PROGRAMS

Omaha's Adaptive Recreation Program

provides opportunity for volunteers to work with children and adults who are developmentally delayed, hearing impaired and/or physically disabled.

WHAT The programs are designed to introduce participants to a variety of leisure experiences emphasizing skills in socialization, coordination and appropriate behavior. The program includes swimming, arts and crafts, ice skating, dance, exercise and social nights.

WHERE Programs take place at Omaha Community Center sites (see back for specific programs and times).

WHEN Beginning October 13 through December 12

BENEFITS Your volunteer experiences could be used as:

1. Reference for paid employment.
2. Entrance requirements for some college courses.
3. Gaining knowledge in area of special education and recreation.
4. Becoming more familiar with the needs of those individuals who happen to be disabled.

CONTACT

Marie Garies Cisper
Adaptive Recreation Program
Park and Recreation Division
City of Omaha
444-5900

Printed by the Recreation Division



PROGRAMS OFFERED THIS FALL!

CHILDREN'S EXERCISE

This program is designed to increase body awareness, coordination and flexibility through the use of movement to music and rhythm games. Ages 5-9, Thursday, Oct. 16- Dec. 11 at 4-5 pm. at Pipal Park Center 7804 Hascall.

ADULT CRAFTS

This program is designed for mentally disabled adults and accessible for the physically disabled. Tuesday, Oct. 14 Dec. 9 at 7:30 pm. at A.V. Sorensen Center 4808 Cass and Monday Oct. 13 at 7:30 at Adams Community Center 3239 Creighton Blvd.

RECREATION SWIM

This program is designed for mentally disabled teens and adults and is also accessible for the physically disabled. Saturday, Oct. 18 - Dec. 13 at 1-2pm. at Martin Luther King School 3706 Maple.

CHILDREN'S CREATIVE CRAFTS

This program is designed for mentally disabled youth who are mainstreamed or in a regular classroom setting. Ages 10-18 Tuesday Oct. 14- Dec. 6 at 4-5pm at Montclair Community Center 2304 So. 135th Ave. and Wednesday, Oct. 15- Dec. 10 4-5pm. at Christie Heights Center 3623 "P" St.

WEIGHT TRAINING

This is a weight training program with supervision using a universal weight set, designed for mentally and physically disabled adults (18 & up). Tuesday-Thursday nights Oct. 14- Dec. 11 7:30 -8:30 at A.V. Sorensen Center 4808 Cass.

GYM 'N SLIM

This program will consist of a number of exercises and slimnastic practices to improve coordination and muscle tone, designed for mentally disabled adults and accessible for the physically disabled. Tuesday- Thursday nights Oct. 14- Dec. 11 7:30-8:30pm. at A.V. Sorensen Center 4808 Cass.

GOOD TIMES SOCIAL CLUB

This is a recreational/social program which provides an opportunity for getting together with friends and sharing new experiences within the community, designed for the mentally disabled adult. Ages 19 & up 2nd and 4th Friday nights Oct. 17- Dec. 12 7-9pm. at A.V. Sorensen Center 4808 Cass. Cost \$1.00 Membership fee plus participants will be expected to pay for any additional fees.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Age _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Activity _____

Location _____

In Case of Emergency: Name (Other than Guardian) _____ Phone _____

Type of Handicapped Condition _____

My child's picture/name/both may be used for publicity purposes Yes [] No []

REGISTRATION DEADLINE Oct. 10, 1980

Mail Registration To:

City of Omaha
Parks & Recreation Department - Suite 701
1819 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68183

After Deadline - Call 444-5900 for Program Availability

PEOPLE FIRST OF NEBRASKA - THIRD STATE CONVENTION -by Project II

This year our state convention is going to be in Kearney, Nebraska, at the Ramada Inn on October 18-19, 1980. We hope 300 or 400 people will come.

The Ramada Inn has an indoor swimming pool, a sauna, and plenty of rooms for meetings. We'll have a dance again, also. Right now we are trying to get some important speakers.

All of Project II has been working on the convention. This year, other local groups are working on it also. Different groups take responsibility for workshops & seminars at the convention. They also take responsibility for producing posters, for getting publicity over radio and television and for getting people interested in attending.

Our conventions are always fun for everyone. They are also educational experiences, because we discuss our rights in the community as well as our responsibilities. If you have any questions about the convention, you may call Bonnie Shoultz at 498-1440(work) or 553-8896 (home).

C O N V E N T I O N A G E N D A

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Registration (provide your own lunch) |
| 1:00 AM - 2:45 PM | General Session - What We Believe |
| | -Speakers |
| | -Film |
| | -Slide Show of last year's convention |
| 2:45 PM - 3:00 PM | Donuts and Coffee |
| 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Workshops |
| | -Self-Advocacy |
| | -Assertiveness: Getting Others to Respect You |
| | -Voting |
| | -Rights and Responsibilities in Residences |
| | -Rights and Responsibilities in Vocational Training |
| | -Attitudes |
| | -Managing Money |
| | -Starting a Group |
| | -Keeping a Group Going |
| | -Film Festival |
| 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Hospitality Room |
| 6:30 PM | STEAK DINNER |
| 8:30 PM - 11:00 PM | Disco Dance |

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM | Breakfast |
| 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM | General Session |
| 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM | Workshops |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 Noon | General Session - Where do we go from here? |
| 12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM | Lunch |

.....SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR REGISTRATION FORM.....

P E O P L E F I R S T O F N E B R A S K A

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

(Please use a separate registration form for each person)

To be held at the Ramada Inn, Kearney, NE, at Interstate 80 & So 2nd Avenue
Phone: (308) 237-5971

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ORGANIZATION OR AGENCY _____

I ☐ WILL ☐ WILL NOT BE VOTING AT THE CONVENTION (Professionals
will not vote)

I ENCLOSE ☐ \$5.00 Registration Fee

☐ \$18.00 For Dinner, Breakfast and Lunch on Sunday

YOU MUST NAME ROOMMATES BELOW, UNLESS YOU HAVE
MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE NebARC ASSIGN A ROOMMATE

☐ \$7.00 For my share of a room for four

☐ \$9.50 For my share of a room for three

☐ \$12.00 For my share of a room for two

☐ \$20.00 For a single room

_____ TOTAL

My roommate(s) will be _____

"PEOPLE FIRST OF NEBRASKA" will make your room and meal reservations for
you. You must register with us by September 26, 1980, at :

PEOPLE FIRST OF NEBRASKA
c/o NebARC
3100 No. 14 Street
Lincoln, NE 68521

If you have any questions, call Kim Wilnes at (402) 475-4407

-----SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR AGENDA-----

THE GREATER OMAHA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS
SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE A PANEL
DISCUSSION ON THE TOPIC:

"HOW, AND WHY, SHOULD THE SEVERELY RETARDED PERSON
BE SERVED IN THE COMMUNITY?"

THE MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON:

THURSDAY -----
SEPTEMBER 18TH

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT:

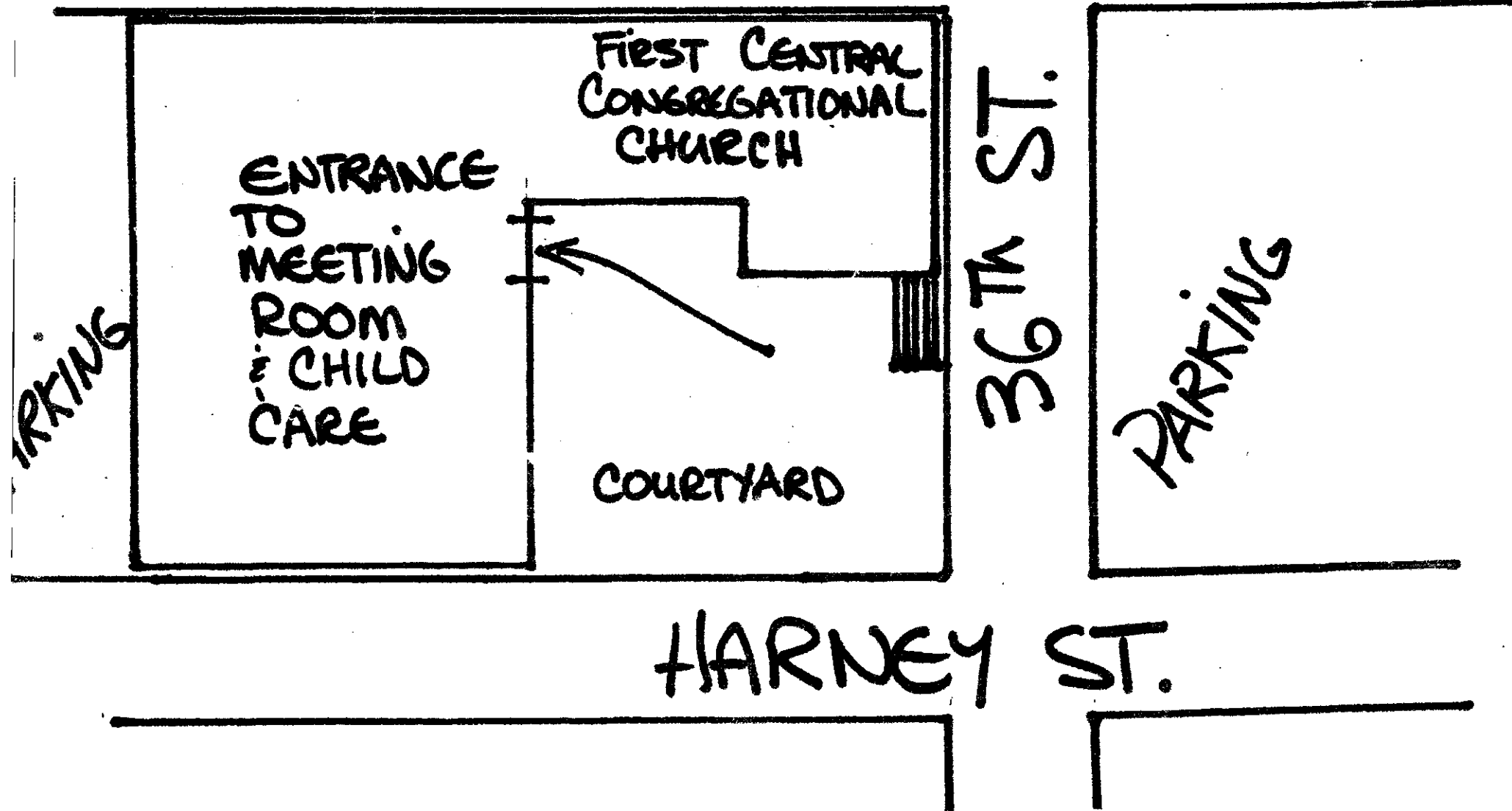
FIRST CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
421 S. 36TH
(MAP ON REVERSE)

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, CHILD AND RESPITE CARE
WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING THE MEETING, FREE OF CHARGE.

PLEASE, PLAN ON ATTENDING, AND BRING A FRIEND!

THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:30 PM

ENTRANCE TO THE MEETING ROOM IS THROUGH THE COURTYARD ON THE NORTHWEST
CORNER OF THE CHURCH BUILDING.



SECTION

504

OF THE REHABILITATION ACT

AND

PUBLIC LAW

94-142

EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

ON SEPTEMBER 23RD, TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MID-CENTRAL LEGAL CENTER WILL BE IN OMAHA TO PROVIDE A TRAINING SESSION ON SECTION 504 AND PL 94-142. THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WHAT YOUR RIGHTS - AND THE RIGHTS OF YOUR CHILDREN - ARE UNDER THESE FEDERAL LAWS!!!

THESE TWO FEDERAL LAWS OUTLINE THE MAJOR ANTI-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSES

AS THEY RELATE TO:

EMPLOYMENT

HEALTH CARE

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

EDUCATION

HOUSING.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT: 1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NIVEN HALL
216 S. 34TH ST.
7:30 PM

THERE WILL BE TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

THE MEETING IS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY GOARC AND ENCOR - IT IS OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS.

GOARC gazette

VOL XII NO. 3 THE GREATER OMAHA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS SUMMER EDITION

ENCOR Moves to Area Management

By Kevin Casey

The success of the philosophy of Normalization requires that the community respect mentally retarded citizens and view them as peers. We all know that the normal bonds that exist between a citizen and the community have been traditionally interrupted for mentally retarded citizens through placement in institutions. That bond, once broken, is difficult to repair because institutionalization reinforces the devaluation of mentally retarded citizens. The goals of ENCOR and the purpose of Normalization can be tied to the re-establishment of community bonds.

In 1977, ENCOR realized the need to evaluate the first decade of community-based services and develop future planning based on the lessons of the first decade. A Planning Council was appointed by the Governing Board to conduct this evaluation, and that Council established a number of committees to aid in its massive task.

In keeping with the Agency's philosophy of giving the consumer a voice in determining policy and procedures, a number of ENCOR clients participated in the Council and committee discussions and meetings.

ENCOR staff was represented on the Planning Council and committees by almost 10% of the ENCOR staff. Line staff and supervisors from every division and department were involved in the process of problem identification and recommendations.

The families of clients were represented also, as were interested professionals and political figures. Every voice was heard in committee meetings and public forums. Every view was offered and con-

sidered. Eventually, after over a year of meetings and forums, the committees reported to the Planning Council and the Council issued a report entitled "For We Have Promises to Keep. . . And Miles To Go Before We Sleep." This Action Plan was delivered to the Governing Board in January, 1979.

Among the recommendations contained in the Action Plan was one on Area Management. The Recommendation on Area Management was classified as Priority "A" by the Planning Council, meaning that its implementation was viewed as "crucial to the future development of services." The Planning Council felt that Priority "A" items, such as Area Management, should be accomplished with the 1979-80 Fiscal Year.

In looking to the future, Area Management can be developed so that the principles and practice of Normalization are enhanced. No matter how many arguments are raised for the continued institutionalization of people, we can respond with programs that show the ability of communities to integrate its handicapped citizens and accept them as peers rather than objects of pity.

A successful implementation of Area Management will accomplish the following points:

- (1) Provide for greater involvement of consumers, families, public and elected officials. With an Administrator available in each area, the system will become more accessible and more responsive to consumers and their families. Under the current system, many client-centered conflicts bet-

Continued on p. 8

New Board, New Executive for GOARC; July 1st

Elections for the 1980-1981 Board of Directors for GOARC were held on Thursday, May 22.

The Executive Committee will be composed of: Craig Fecker, President; John Walburn, First Vice-president; Mike McGill, Second Vice-president; Patti Rock, Treasurer; Teresa Kinman, Member-at-large; Tom Upton as Immediate Past President, and Murph

Gartner as Secretary.

Also elected were: Madeline Gowing, Janet Ansell, Bonnie Shoultz, JoAnn Balcetis, Lewis Bottorff, Don Grimm, Mike Linn, Bertine Loop, Fran Porter, Ollie Rector, Jack DeMay, John Clark, Bev DeMay, Terry Casey, Dick Galusha, Tom Houlihan, Chris Christensen, Joe Krpal, Bill Wills, Continued on p. 5

Pilot Parents Conference

Representatives from 17 states and Canada met at the Omaha Hilton over the 27th, 28th and 29th of June for the First National Pilot Parents Conference.

Some 65 delegates listened to two days of seminars, presentations, and discussions about Pilot Parenting. The conference Continued on p. 5

EDITORIAL

IF 'INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY' FORMS A WORKABLE FOUNDATION FOR OUR CONCEPT OF JUSTICE, WHY DON'T WE BELIEVE IN 'ABLE UNTIL PROVEN UNABLE' AS THE BASIS FOR OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS ALL PEOPLE — HANDICAPPED OR NOT!!!

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Editor:

For your information and for inclusion in your publication is the following information on the:

*Eighth Annual Convention
of the
Down's Syndrome Congress
St. Louis, Missouri
November 1st and 2nd*

The convention program will include:

Keynote Address by Chester Oden, author of *The Story of the Moose*

Address: *The Relationship Between Handicaps and Environment in Producing Desirable Outcomes" - Dr. Arnold Sameroff*

Address: *"The Emotional Impact of having an Impaired Child-Dr. Ken Moses*
Slide/Talk *on Mainstreaming a Daughter in Kindergarten-Bruce and Cynthia Johnson*

Address: *"Involving Community in Advocacy"*

Parent/Professional Panel: *"Listening to One Another"*

Workshops: *Reading for People with Down's Syndrome*
Parent Feelings (Dr. Moses)
Imagination Theater
Life Skills Program
Dealing with Death and Dying
New Age College for living
Just for New Parents
A New Look in Estate Planning
The Child from 6-14: Lifestyles
Parent Group Update

Film Festival of the best available films on Down's Syndrome

Satellite Conferences for Citizens with DS (18 and up) and for Students with DS (13 and up).

For further information write or call Dora Chudner, 11054 Wylestone Court, St. Louis, MO 63126. Phone: 314-849-0040. For information on the Satellite Conferences write or call Rudy Alberts, 22 W. Parkway, Wichita, Kansas 67206.

Dear Editor:

Would you put this in the Gazette for me please. This story is about my feeling about Beatrice State Home. Project II will not support the World Herald paper in anything they write about Beatrice.

Tom Houlihan

Dear Editor:

The March/April 1980 issue of the Gazette was absolutely dynamite! Each article focused on issues that are of vital concern to every citizen in the State of Nebraska. Citizens may, or may not, be aware that the diminution of the right of even a small number of Nebraskans, diminishes the quality of life for us all.

The Region VI Developmental Disabilities Council would like to bring consumers together from all sides of the issues concerning developmentally disabled persons. Your editorial calling to "GET INVOLVED" is a perfect description of the activities of the Region VI Developmental Disabilities Council.

Continued on p. 3

From the desk of the Executive Director

Charles E. Tressler II

I know that my resignation will come as a surprise to many of you, but it is what is best for me at this point in time. Hopefully, a majority of you (who truly know what has been happening at GOARC lately) have positive feelings about my contribution to the organization during the past year.

Yet, the job has just begun! And a "renaissance" is still within GOARC's grasp. In fact, some feel that it has already begun. Perhaps it has. I hope so.

I am certain, however, that the volunteers and staff of the organization must continue with and resolve the issues that have plagued GOARC for too long. I think that I have helped to at least begin that process.

There is a glimmer of life now. And for GOARC to regain its former vitality - you all must continue to be diligent, fair and work together in a positive, productive and harmonious manner.

As for me, I am grateful to be able to count my year with GOARC among my career experiences. I appreciate the positivism with which you greeted my coming (!) and the support you gave me during my twelve months with the organization.

I am glad to have had the GOARC experience. I really am.

Letters to the Editor - Continued from p. 2

Please let me take this opportunity to invite your general membership, and particularly members of your speaker's bureau, to attend the meetings of the Region VI Developmental Disabilities Council, to speak out on issues that concern you and provide further direction in the Council's activities.

Meetings are generally the third Thursday of each month, 11:30 at the Nebraska Easter Seal Society's office, 12177 Pacific Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Members wishing to be placed on the Region VI mailing list should contact me at:

*Department of Health
Developmental Disabilities
301 Centennial Mall South
P. O. Box 95007
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509*

Sincerely,

*Chip Black, Regional Council
Coordinator*

The GAZETTE is the publication of the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens (GOARC). All articles (signed or unsigned) reflect the opinion of their author(s). All articles submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. Articles should be signed and submitted by the first of the month for publication the following month. Readers are urged to submit articles or letters to the editor!

ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year has been highlighted by planning, major staff changes, the improvement of internal systems, and more recently, the infusion of new volunteer manpower into the Association. It has been a time of renewal and a time of recommitment for the eighties.

Integral parts of the planning process not only included discovering who we are as an organization and where we are headed--but also included a funding plan with an emphasis on better sources and fewer larger activities.

While some programs ended, new ones began. New programs were initiated that will hopefully strengthen the organization internally for the longrun, make sound its foundation and prepare it for any crisis. Two of the new programs were public education and comprehensive volunteerism. These two programs will allow us in a planned and conscientious way to inform the community and our membership and recruit, train, evaluate and reinforce our volunteer manpower, respectively. The GOARC GAZETTE was redesigned and a speaker's bureau was developed.

1979 saw the end of GOARC's Pilot Parent Program grant. But it also saw greater volunteer involvement in the program and the glimmer of some expanded programming to provide support to parents of older children, teenagers, young adults and adults with mental retardation. GOARC planned a National Pilot Parent Workshop as well, in cooperation with Meyer Children's Rehabilitation Institute. Other cooperative efforts occurred with Directions Services and Omaha Public Schools.

The Ombudsman project also ended. However, the overall advocacy thrust of the organization is being strengthened in an effort to do some of that which the Ombudsman did and more. As part of this renewed advocacy thrust, GOARC has sponsored over the past 12 months forums on LB 889, the "lid" bill and the effect the Omaha Public Schools merger will have on educational services to students with developmental disabilities. Of course, GOARC was supportive of the Senatorial Appreciation Dinner sponsored by the Association for Retarded Citizens/Nebraska and hopes to become more active in the legislative scene in the months to come.

In October, GOARC recommitted itself to the concept of obtaining vs. provision of services. This recommitment led to the planning process previously mentioned. The overall goals of which are 1) to promote and insure a continuum of services for people with mental retardation that are both comprehensive and appropriate, 2) to promote and insure continuum of services for the parents and families of people with mental retardation, and 3) to create a positive climate of public awareness, acceptance, and support for all people with mental retardation.

**Honey Sunday, 1980
November, 9th**

Candidly Speaking

by Terry Casey

Once again I have read my community newspaper and once again I am dumbfounded. I come from newspaper stock - indeed my grandfather was touted as one of the youngest editors of a newspaper, later he was managing editor of the Chicago Journal of Commerce. My English papers in school were critiqued at home with the diligence of a Lou Grant. And I was never and still am not a great writer. However, I did learn the difference between reporting and propaganda. And the editorials I have been reading of late in the World-Herald are filled with good old "glittering generalities" and testimonials but not fact. Now I am admittedly new to the Omaha scene and I do not know all the historical background on politicking, but I do read and I do question some things I have been reading. 1) I would like to know the data that substantiates the following statement by the Nebraska Medical Association which appeared in a front page article on April 29, 1980 and in the Editorial page on April 30, 1980: "It is a well demonstrated fact that for profoundly and severely retarded persons an institution is the least restrictive environment." Why does a non-ambulatory, medically fragile individual require an institutional environment? Is it for medical reasons? Okay then what's wrong with a community hospital set up similar to D.M.U.? Surely the Nebraska Medical Association would allow that the community hospitals at which they are on staff meet the same standards of medical treatment and care found at the Beatrice State Development Center. 2) I would like to see the editor of the Herald delve into the validity of Dr. Charles Landgraf, Jr.'s statement that "he is seeing an increasing number of patients admitted to the state's regional mental health centers because of inappropriate placement of retarded persons in the communities." If indeed an increase is evident, does the inappropriate placement reflect limitations of the medical resources and programs in the community? Or are community consumers being economically forced back to the institutions because of the lack of continuation funds for the community programs made available by the Governor and legislature on the recommendation of the Department of Public Institutions? 3) I also find it interesting that the person who is president of the Association which "Feels that Beatrice has an outstanding program" and voted "strong support for Beatrice" is also the same person who is Medical Director of the Nebraska Department of Public Institutions which is answerable for the medical care at Beatrice.

I am not surprised that the Editor or the editorial staff would make their April 30th endorsement: "Let's keep and improve that center (BSDC)." Their stand has been unfolding as far back as when Howard Silber reported Mr. Michner's intention to run a financial comparison between the community programs and the institutional program. I am all for fiscal responsibility and welcome Mr. Michner's suggestion. However, the World Herald did not chal-

lenge Mr. Michner's statement that such an undertaking had never been done before anywhere in the U.S. In fact if they had researched their own news stacks, they might recall a similar study they reported approximately 5 years ago. Curiously enough that study was conducted by Touche Ross, an Omaha firm Governor Exon had contracted then, which Mr. Michner has now contracted for his supposedly new, innovative study. Just for the record, I know of six studies which have been conducted on the very topic Mr. Michner wishes to spend additional tax dollars to restudy. Anyone wishing further information on these studies can call the G.O.A.R.C. office.

I am not a human service professional, I am not a parent of a child who is mentally retarded; and naturally I do not have all the answers. But I am interested in people, and how my tax dollar is spent from the federal level to the community level. To draw my conclusions I rely on several sources not the least of which is the World Herald. The community needs more unbiased investigative reporting. We need the World Herald. Let's keep and improve that paper.

Preparing for Puberty

by JoAnn Balcetis

All Children possess a natural healthy curiosity about sex and their bodies. If their questions and concerns are ignored they are left with the alternative of being misinformed or "dreaming" up answers. These fantasies cannot only be far from truth but can cause much anxiety, fear, guilt and perhaps stimulate inappropriate behavior. Children with mental retardation will also have many questions and concerns. It is unrealistic to assume that they do not need answers of guidance.

Perhaps once children reach puberty our concerns are intensified. The exceptional child who is handicapped in mental development will usually develop like other children, especially as the age of puberty is reached. It is best to begin with simple explanations of the physical changes before they begin. Questions can come up spontaneously or you can help create situations in which they may arise. Keeping your answers simple and matter of fact will help. Repeat your explanations as often as possible. Being comfortable in discussing such changes beforehand will avoid a lot of unnecessary fear and confusion.

Except for individuals with severe and profound retardation, the exceptional child will experience the development of sexual impulses and feelings along with the physical changes. We have been prone to deny their presence because we fear their surfacing. They will not go away and our guidance will help to prevent their expression in a distorted fashion. You can tell your child that what they feel is normal, not bad, that strong feelings are not harmful but putting thoughts into action can sometimes cause harm to themselves or others. Honest straight forward talks with your child will help them see that there are limits to sexual behavior as there are limits with all our behavior. Your conversations can be as involved or complex as needed to suit the age and level of understanding.

Continued on p. 5

Parents - Continued from p. 1

was jointly sponsored by GOARC and MCRI.

The opening session was held on Friday, June 27th with an introduction to the Pilot Parent Program from Fran Porter and Shirley Dean. This was followed by a media presentation and an evening on the town for the delegates. Saturday, the 28th marked the formal beginning for the conference. Saturday was spent in workshops divided into two groups. The first group of workshops was aimed at those delegates from programs that were already underway. The second set was aimed at those wishing information on beginning or initial stages of new programs.

Workshops included: Technical Assistance for New Programs, Effective Program Publicity, What it Takes to be a Good Pilot Parent, Setting up a Dynamite Training Session, Developing Appropriate Communication Skills, and "Our Kids as Individuals".

Saturday evening was capped off with a delicious banquet. John McGee was the featured speaker for the evening. John's speech highlighted some of the possible pitfalls for the decade of the 1980's.

GOARC Forum

On April 16th, GOARC held an information forum to determine if there would be any impact on special education programs if the proposed school district merger took place.

Frank Bogard - Vice-President of the Omaha Board of Education, Neils Wodder - Director of Special Education for District 66, and Donald Stroh - Superintendent of Schools for Millard were the participants.

It was the unanimous opinion of the participants that there would be little, if any, impact on special education programs. The school district representatives felt that the close degree of cooperation between districts in special education and the uniform degree of quality presently available indicated to them that there would be little change.

New Board - Continued from p.1

Shirley Scritchfield, Sister Evangeline, Janet Anderson, and Tom Kodera.

Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month (except June and December) and are open to the public. Meetings are held at the GOARC office (3212 Dodge St.) and begin at 7:30 P.M. unless announced otherwise.

The new Board will be joined by a new Executive Director effective July first. Chuck Tressler announced his intention to resign at the May meeting of the Executive Committee. He will be replaced by Dan Costello who has been serving as Assistant Executive Director.

Dan has a B.A. from Kearney State College (Kearney, NE), an M.A. from Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.) and post-M.A. work at Georgetown.

If you are between 12 and 21, if you enjoy making new friends, and like to have fun - then you SHOULD BELONG TO GOYARC !!

Preparing for Puberty - Continued from p. 4

"Sex education" is an on going process which is not just the facts about reproduction or male/female biological differences. It covers the more sensitive areas of feelings, attitudes, feelings of self respect and relationships with others. Dealing with your child's developing sexuality by conveying an attitude of warmth, acceptance of emerging feelings and discussion will help build a wholesome personality and secure feelings of self-acceptance. A strong positive self-image will aid any individual in coping with the possibilities offered and the realities present in the adult world.

For further information, readers are urged to consult two good resources: Love, Sex, and Birth Control for the Mentally Retarded by Kempton, Bass, and Gordon - available through Planned Parenthood Association for Southeastern Pennsylvania (1402 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19102), and Facts About Sex for Today's Youth by Sol Gordon - write Planned Parenthood (810 7th Ave., New York, NY 10019). The first is a brief handbook written specifically for parents/guardians. It offers support and information in dealing with sexuality issues stressing the formation of healthy attitudes and strong positive self concepts.

GOARC loses Ombudsperson - Continued from p. 9

MISCELLANEOUS FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Other sources of information about and access to Federal programs would include:

(for 504 and Parks and Recreation)
George Covington
Department of Interior
Office of Equal Employment
118th & "C" Sts. N.W., Room 1324
Washington, D.C.
(202) 343-4331

(for information on right of access to federal and federally financed buildings)
Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board
Mary E Switzer Building
3330 C Street S.W., Room 1010
Washington, D.C. 20201

(for complaints about discrimination in public housing)
Richard McMillian
Housing and Urban Development
911 Walnut, Room 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64106



George Armstrong - winner of the June Vance Distinguished Service Award is congratulated by Vern Vance (I).



Joe Friend presents the plaque for Employer of the Year to Skylanes Bowling Lanes.



Winners of the Most Progress - Adult Award, Ollie and Lowell Rector receive their plaque from John Clark.

GOA AWARDS 19

GOARC's Annual Awards Night was held on April 22. From a field of over 75 nominees, the Awards Committee selected 15 individuals and three organizations as outstanding in their field in 1979-1980.

Bill Rody was Master of Ceremonies for the evening - an evening filled with entertainment, surprises, and beautiful memories.

Two special awards were presented for the first time this year. The June Vance Distinguished Service Award was presented in honor of GOARC's first president and long-time volunteer. The Ray Loomis Citizen of the Year Award was presented in honor of the founder of Project II and tireless advocate. We were proud to have had Verne Vance and Nancy Loomis to present these awards.

**JUNE VANCE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD -
GEORGE ARMSTRONG**

**RAY LOOMIS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD -
ADELINE REIS**

**ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR -
MILLARD DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER**

**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR -
MARGARET CAIRNS**

**OUTSTANDING PROGRESS (YOUTH) -
JASON FEZETTE**

**OUTSTANDING GOARC YOUTH MEMBER -
BEV DEMAY**

**PILOT PARENT OF THE YEAR -
WILLIE ADAMS**

ARC NIGHT 80

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR -
DON GRIMM
WESLEY WOODHEAD

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR -
SKYLANES BOWLING ALLEY

OUTSTANDING PROGRESS (ADULT) -
OLLIE RECTOR
LOWELL RECTOR

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR -
CRAIG FECKER
PATTY GROSS

MEDIA OF THE YEAR -
KETV (Channel 7)

PARENTS OF THE YEAR -
LES SAMSON
JERRY SAMSON

TEACHER OF THE YEAR -
BILL KESLING

The evening was made very special through a combination of time, effort, and energy by the volunteers who put the Awards Night together. We would like to thank Baker's, Jay and Linda Banta, Sally Challender, John and Mary Clark, Flower City (Westroads), Hinky Dinky, Johnston Insurance Company, Nancy Kracher, Mangelsen's, Tim McGuire, members of the Pilot Parent Program, Dr. Larry Rice, Bill and Sandy Rody, Jane Upton, and the Union Pacific Quartet for their contributions.

The plaques that were presented this year were assembled in the ARC Workshop in Des Moines.



Patty Gross was a co-winner of the Advocate of the Year Award.



Jason Fezette was the winner of the Most Progress - Youth Award.

Area Management - Continued from p. 1

ween divisions must be sent to the Agency Director for resolution. Area Management will decentralize the authority to resolve such issues. The appeals process will have more response on the local level rather than at the Central Office level.

- (2) Area Management will provide for greater opportunities for normalized, integrated services. Each area will be able to develop more professional relationships with public and private service providers, thus developing greater potential for integrating our clients into existing social services.
- (3) Area Management will improve the bonds between the individual and their community. By moving clients from program facility to program facility within the five counties, we create a situation that is disruptive to process of community access and cognizance. The situation is not responsive to the job training needs of the client in many cases. In addition, such massive transportation removes the client from the community, something that we would otherwise oppose.
- (4) Area Management will provide opportunities for the development of comprehensive services in each geographic area. This point is related to the development of community bonds, recognition and acceptance. Increasing our resources in each area will provide a better model of "community-based" services and simultaneously increase the visibility of the Agency and clients. Increased visibility will create more opportunities for community acceptance.
- (5) Area Management will increase supervisory empowerment at all levels of the Agency. Quite simply put, Area Management will take much of the power now concentrated at 885 South 72nd Street and place it in the hands of the Area Directors and their staff. With power at a lower level, problem solving abilities will also be increased at a level that is closer to the clients and families.
- (6) Area Management will provide for a central structure to provide continuity and cohesion between areas. Several Agency functions will not be transferred to Area Directors. The Guidance Division and Team Services will continue under the direct control of the Agency Director. The Advisors will provide for a centralized advocacy and communication network. The special services provided by the Team will be available to all areas as needed.

The Area Director's position has been developed in response to a basic structural flaw in our current service system. It has been difficult in the past to coordinate the efforts of vocational and residential services due to a variety of differences between the programs. Placing an Area Director in a position which allows for the adjustments of both programs should greatly enhance the ability of the Agency to respond in a complementary manner to the recommendations of each client's IPP Team.

The Guidance Department will retain its centralized status. This will insure that the Advisor's capacity to act in the best interest of the client is maintained. Also, due to the associated nature of the Transdisciplinary Team and the Guidance Department in relation to the IPP process, the Team has been

placed under the structural authority of the Guidance Department.

Certain administrative functions do not lend themselves to decentralization. In order to manage these types of functions, an office of Resource Development will be established.

It would be naive to assume that the Area Management System will be without its own hazards. However, with the Guidance Department serving in an advocacy role and the Director of ENCOR being afforded the time to monitor the various areas on a comparison basis, there will be adequate safeguards to recognize potential or developing problems.

An important aspect of this plan is the placing of the clients back into the closest ITC's. The area will have the responsibility for both the residential and vocational services. The geographic boundaries will appear as follows: Three areas will exist in Douglas County. 42nd Street from Dodge Street north will be the East/West dividing line for two of the areas. The third area will be from Center Street south to Harrison Street. Dodge/Washington and Cass/Sarpy make up the other two areas. The clients who receive residential services within these boundaries will attend the vocation program in the corresponding area.

The Area Director will have the responsibility for the WSIs in their own area. Development for more services in Work Stations will be the responsibility of both the Area Director and the Resource Development Office. As soon as possible, the areas will have WSI opportunity available.

We are at a critical point in ENCOR's history. Either we will continue to grow in a fashion that places increasing levels of bureaucracy between the consumer and the Agency leadership, or we will use our talents to develop something better. The opportunity for something better is here. If we use our collective talents and energy, we can provide a structure that is more efficient, more accessible, and more sensitive to the needs and rights of our clients.

ENCOR has always been unique as a social service agency. We are one of the few in the world that can honestly say that we believe in the dignity of people and have a philosophy to support that belief. If we keep the ethical and developmental principles of Normalization in mind, we can forge a new system that will be in tune with the needs of our clients and the community we all live in.

We want YOU!
as a member of
the SPEAKERS
BUREAU - call
348-9220

GOARC loses Ombudsperson position

Effective March 31, the GOARC/Developmental Disabilities Ombudsperson Program ended. The current operating budget of GOARC was unable to support the program after the termination of co-funding by the Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities.

With the end of the program, parents and persons with mental retardation will lose a valuable resource and faithful ally with the loss of Patty Gross from the GOARC staff.

In an attempt to fill the information gap left by Patty's departure, and the ending of the program, we would like to present some material about alternative sources of information and assistance. Pamphlets which are marked with an asterisk (*) are available at the GOARC office.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, NEBRASKA

For information about a student's right to education in Nebraska, the Nebraska Department of Education has published a pamphlet entitled "Handicapped Children, Their Right to an Education, Information for Parents."* The information contained in the brochure relates to Public Law 94-142 and Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51.

For parents who wish to appeal a decision about their child's educational program an appeal, in writing, should be made to:

Nebraska Department of Education
Special Education Branch
Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509
471-2471

Parents who are not satisfied with the results of an appeal through the Commissioner of Education are entitled to a judicial review in District Court.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

For information about Vocational Rehabilitation, the Client Assistance Project of the Division of Rehabilitation Services can both provide information and process complaints. A brochure entitled "Client Assistance Project, A Way to Help Rehabilitation Clients Answer Questions and Get Results"* is available to explain the ways in which the client Assistance Project can help.

Information can be received directly by calling collect, or writing:

Client Assistance Project
Division of Rehabilitation Services
Sixth Floor
301 Centennial Mall South/Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 471-2961 TTY for Deaf.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Questions about rights to equal opportunity and employment may be directed to (in the case of Federal employment): the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer of the particular Federal agency. Other questions about employment and discrimination may be addressed to:

Nebraska Equal Employment Opportunity
Commission
5600 Ames Ave.
Omaha, NE.

STATE OF NEBRASKA

For complaints about actions of the State of Nebraska, readers are urged to contact the State Ombudsman, c/o the Capitol Building, Lincoln, NE.

SECTION 504

Although "504 Regulations" seem to present a bewildering array of rights and sources of appeals, a brief brochure, printed by the Department of H.E.W. and entitled "Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, FACT SHEET, Handicapped Persons Rights under Federal Law"*, covers the essential elements of that law both briefly and clearly.

Letters of complaint about discrimination on the basis of handicap in any program funded by HEW should be addressed to:

Jesse High, Director
Region VII, Office of Civil Rights
Department H.E.W.
Seventh Floor
1150 Grand
Kansas City, Kansas

SECTION 504 & PL 94-142

For information about rights under both 504 and the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (Public Law 94-142) an H.E.W. pamphlet entitled "Your Rights as a Disabled Person"* is highly recommended. This pamphlet has been serialized in the past several Gazettes (see p.).

SECTION 504 & SECTION 503

Additional information on Section 504 and Section 503 can be found in two brochures published by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. "Affirmative Action to Employ Handicapped People - A Pocket Guide"* and "Affirmative Action for Disabled People" - a Pocket Guide"* both are excellent references.

Continued on p. 5

Thank You

We would like to thank the following people for the help in the membership campaign.

W.M. J. PODRAZO

JANET ANSELL

BONNIE SHOULTZ

JOHN AND MARY CLARK

MR. AND MRS. GARTNER

MR. AND MRS. GILES

TERRY CASEY

CHERI DEAN

BURT AND PEARL
CHRISTOPHERSON

RICHARD BARON

SHARON GOLDSBERRY

ED SKARNULIS

TOM HOULIHAN

MR. AND MRS. CROUGH

GLENDA AND LARRY DAVIS

SHERRY NOLEY

JOHN WALBURN

DAN COSTELLO

MARIE JAKL

CHUCK TRESSLER

Mini-Courses begin

The first of the 1980 GOARC Mini-Courses began on April 3rd. The course, "Human Sexuality" is being taught by JoAnn Balcetis. JoAnn is a teacher at J. P. Lord School, a counselor for Planned Parenthood, and a member of the GOARC Board. Course enrollment was up to 13 the day registration ended. The course is scheduled to meet once a week for six weeks.



JoAnn Balcetis and Paul Adams prepare a film for the mini-course.

We would like very much to be able to offer other mini-courses on a continuing basis. If you have suggestions for topics, or recommendations for possible faculty members, please call Mary Magnuson at the GOARC office, 348-9220 (8:00 AM to noon). We hope to be able to offer the courses on a "free to members" basis, one course starting every two months.

Visitors tour Omaha

Representatives from Canada and Denmark toured the Omaha area in March. The Canadian representatives visited almost all of the service providers in the Omaha area to get an over-all picture of the kinds of services available here. In addition they spent several hours at the GOARC office and with the GOARC staff discussing GOARC's program areas - like Pilot Parents.

Mr. Bent Hansen of Denmark spent two days with Dan Costello touring integrated educational facilities in Omaha and District 66.

Omaha and Nebraska still have the reputation to draw visitors from around the world. One gets the uneasy feeling, however, that our international visitors are attracted by our history, rather than our present. One representative of the Canadian delegation hinted that while they were impressed with the services they visited, perhaps in another several years we would be visiting Quebec as they moved forward with the times and continued to improve their delivery.

The service providers in Omaha and Nebraska will get another blast of international inspection with visitors from Germany and New Zealand scheduled to visit in March.

NOTICE - IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF GOARC YOU SHOULD ALSO RECEIVE THE STATE (NEBARC) AND NATIONAL NEWSLETTERS. IF NOT, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE (348-9220).

Brandeis thank-you

Representatives from Brandeis gave GOARC the proceeds from the 1979 Brandeis Angel Project April 10th at a "Thank You" lunch sponsored by GOARC. The proceeds from the first year totalled \$6,188.07 for GOARC and an additional \$3,508.82 for other ARC's in Nebraska and Iowa.



Dave Lange (l), Tom Upton and Sam Marchese get ready for the Brandeis "Thank You" Luncheon.

Top Brandeis executives and store managers were honored with plaques presented by GOARC.

Speakers from Brandeis stressed their commitment to doing the Angel Project again in 1981, and their commitment to community involvement. Representatives from the ARC thanked Brandeis for its work, involvement, and the progressive tone which the Angel Project set throughout the Christmas season.

It is expected that the second year will be even more successful for the ARC's around Nebraska and Iowa.



Much of what we are able to do at GOARC is funded through our United Way. Every year a number of contributors to the United Way's Annual Campaign designate GOARC as the specific recipient of their contributions. We would like to thank all of those people who helped us through the United Way. Whether you are a member, friend, or casual acquaintance of the association you have our heartfelt thanks for the work you make possible through your contribution.

Aldrich, Gladys W.
 Allas, Sharon
 Anderson, Judy K.
 Anderson, Patricia
 Ashcraft, Ruthe M.
 Avino, Phil
 Barker, Kendall O.
 Beam, Anna Lou
 Bernard, Michael E.
 Bishop, C. Eugene
 Blasing Jr., G. T.
 Boehmer, Ed
 Bullis, Mary L.
 Carlson, Betty
 Carstensen, Ursula Victoria
 Christensen, Darelynn
 Clark, Leann
 Clark, Ms. Barbara J.
 Coen, D. L.
 Coleman, Pamela J.
 Collen, James
 Confer, Mark
 Conrad, Janie M.
 Cook, Billie J.
 Cook, Ron
 Copeland, Mary E.
 Corcoran, Dianne K.
 Craig, Elva G.
 Cremeens, Robert J.
 Cunningham Jr., Haywood
 Cushing, Diana
 Dale, Marilyn J.
 Darrell, Richard A.
 Davis, Jessie W.
 Dejoy Gloria
 Denning, Martha
 Derby, David E.
 Djoy, Edward V.
 Dwornicki, Thomas J.
 Edwat, Allen

Egger, Pamela J.
 Esterling, Linda
 Evasco, Susan P.
 Fenwick, Scott F.
 Fitzgerald, Judy A.
 Fleming, W. C.
 Flott, E. M.
 Fluderhill, Lana L.
 Fox, Judith K.
 Frakes, Roger
 Gates, Kathy P.
 Gawecki, F. M.
 Gerhardt, T. R.
 Gibbs, Martha M.
 Gilbert, Michael E.
 Gilquest, Noreen
 Glichardson, Tom
 Glismann, Norm
 Gomez, Norva Jean
 Gorum, Connie R.
 Grasso, Tom
 Green, Ferne B.
 Green, Laurie L.
 Greene, Beverly A.
 Gress, Linda
 Hagen, C. R.
 Hall, Candice J.
 Hancock, Janette L.
 Hansen, Richard
 Harlow, Gordon L.
 Harrison, Gloria J.
 Haunton, C. J.
 Hearn, Sylvia
 Heim, Ramona
 Hendricks, Robert T.
 Hokenson, Michael
 Hubbard, Roberta J.
 Hubenka, Albin K.
 Jacobson, Beverly
 Jenkins, Cynthia
 Jenkins, Gwen
 Jensen, E. Susan
 Johnsen, Sherry L.
 Jonak, Sue
 Jones, Betty N.
 Jones, Joy L.
 Jones, Ruth Ann
 Jones, Ruth D.
 Judd, Joyce
 Karnish, Mark A.
 Keating, Nancy J.
 Kellar, Pamela E.
 Keller, Jerry
 King, Regina L.
 Kirby, Kris
 Klein, Debbie
 Kmiecniak, Susan
 Knudtson, M. A.
 Koshy, Thomas
 Krogmann, Jeanine
 Lang, Carol
 Larkin, Delores J.
 Launderville Dena M.
 Leeder, Stephen A.
 Lenhard, Joel C.

Leonard, Betty O.
 Lien, Don
 Lind, E. A.
 Lindauer, Sheila
 Lippy, Shirley
 Love, Walter R.
 Lundberg, Grayce J.
 MacDonald, L. M.
 Mackey, Joyce A.
 Malik, Kathleen L.
 Marek, George
 Maryonski, Patricia J.
 Matheny, Marcia
 Maxwell, Catherine J.
 McCormick, Rosemary
 McDougal, Erma
 McMahan, L.S.
 Mefford, S. B.
 Mercier, Judith A.
 Merta, Shirley
 Minther, Stan
 Morrissey, Ruby
 Mylenbusch, Barbara
 Nefsky, Rodney
 Neill, Linda D.
 Neuman, Marcella
 Newcomer, David
 Nielsen, Sally
 Noehren, Debra
 Norenburg, Richard W.
 Odell, D. S.
 Ormond, A. M.
 Ostergaard, Mike
 Pacovsky, John
 Paseka, Judy
 Patrick, Nancy
 Patterson, Seth L.
 Pearson, Susan C.
 Percival, Sandra
 Perkins, Richard A.
 Peters, Carol
 Peters, Michael P.
 Pivovar, Susan K.
 Plugge, L. A.
 Ponec, Rogert
 Prerost, Susan J.
 Preston, Doris G.
 Price, Terry
 Prochaska, Leroy
 Raasch, Ranae
 Rickers, Karen A.
 Rock, Patricia H.
 Rynearson, W. Scott
 Sampers, Michael
 Scheihofer, Jean
 Schiring, Nancy
 Schoenberger, Maureen
 Scholz, Carol S.
 Schultz, Justina
 Schutte, Barbara Ann
 Sears, Karen
 Sedlacek, Marlene B.
 Selzle, Jeff
 Shapiro, Bettie
 Sieborg, Robert W.

Sieck, Kathleen A.
 Skarnulis, Ed
 Skow, Bud
 Skutnik, Rita
 Slaughter, Luann
 Small, Vickie
 Smith, Patricia M.
 Snowerdt, Edward C.
 Sryas, Jan
 Staley, Karlene
 Steenbock, Athena
 Steinbruck, Lance D.
 Steinkraus, Noel
 Still, Pam
 Stricklin, Rafe G.
 Sturch, Larry S.
 Sudduth, Stanley D.
 Sullivan, Mary Ann
 Swircek, Merilynn L.
 Terry, Richard Timothy
 Tesarek, Nancy
 Thode, Phyllis J.
 Thomas, M. L.
 Thomas Ollie A.
 Thompson, Angel T.
 Townsend, Richard L.
 Tressler II, Charles
 Troxel, Dan
 Tubrick, Tony
 Tuerk, Sandra
 Uman, Floyd
 Umon, Edna
 Voyles, Ardith
 Wallace, Thomas L.
 Walonder, Alice
 Warren, Debbie
 Wasser, Gail M.
 Waugh, Cindy
 Weinberg, Sandi
 Welchert, Cheryl
 Wenk, Raymond
 Whiteley, Mike
 Wiater, Pat
 Winters, Evelyn P.
 Wohlers, Ted L.
 Wright, Dorsel L.
 Zabala, Juanita
 Ziccardi, Sandra P.
 Zweitel, Michael R.
 Zyek, John



Health Care

This is the final segment of the pamphlet "Your right to Health Care"...

Hospitals are the largest group of health care providers affected by the section 504 regulation.

If you are a Medicaid patient, your private physician must:

Have an office physically accessible to you,

Treat you in a hospital or your home, or, if this is not possible,

Refer you to another physician whose office is accessible, after conferring with you.

Services provided to you as a Medicare patient in a federally assisted hospital are covered under section 504; services provided by a private physician are not.

Support the 1981
United Way
Campaign!



GOARC
3212 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68131

The Greater Omaha Association for Retarded
Citizens is a United Way Agency

Memorials

We would like to thank the following members and friends of GOARC for memorial donations in the memory of Ethel Bates:

*The Lioness Club of Omaha, Inc.
John and Janice Kilbride
Randall Weeth
Bev DeMay
Patti Rock
Glen and Alice Blackstone
The Adult Services Committee
(GOARC)
William and Lynn McCormick*

We would like to thank Michael and Janet Ansell for a memorial contribution in the memory of Troy Young.

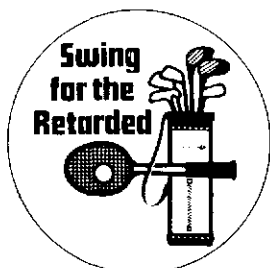
We would like to thank Joe and Helen Schultz for a memorial donation in memory of Donald Gohr.

NOTICE!
Begining with
the next
edition of the
Gazette
we will return
to a monthly
publication
Articles and/or
letters are due
into the office
by the first of
the month

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING CALENDER

AUG 5	EXEC
12	BOARD
SEPT 2	EXEC
16	BOARD
OCT 7	EXEC
21	BOARD



This issue compliments of Swing for the Retarded

SHIRLEY DEAN
ENCOR
885 SO. 72ND ST.
OMAHA, NE 68114

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gazette

GREATER OMAHA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS

VOLUME II NO. 1 FEBRUARY 1980

OPS ACTS ON LB889

Something good happened last month for children with handicaps. The Omaha Public Schools announced their intention to speed the implementation of LB 889.

While this law says that pre-school children with handicaps are entitled to special educational measures, if required, there was little evidence that the services mandated by the law were being provided by the schools even though implementation should have been effected in July.

Responding to the concerns of parents, a committee of the Association for Retarded Citizens arranged two meetings where lines of communication could remain open between all of the concerned parties.

On December 18th, a representative of Omaha Public Schools announced that the process had been started to provide the needed services, such as physical therapy, where medically prescribed, and transportation.

Ultimately, of course, children with handicaps are the real winners, but we think that all of the parties concerned should be commended; the parents who pressed for the rights of their children, the educators who responded positively to those concerns, and the state senators who enacted the law in the first place.

80'S CRUCIAL TO ARC

FROM THE DESK OF
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we begin a new year and a new decade - I am even more convinced that the action for us to take at this point in time is to very clearly decide where we are today and where we want to be in the years to come.

That process - for those who are fearful of monumental tasks and, frankly, we don't need any more of those right now - does not have to take the form of a five year plan. One year will do nicely, thank you very much. However, the critical parts of that process must be definition, clarification, stabilization, and continuity - in terms of policies that would eradicate the gray areas that relate to volunteers-their needs, their responsibilities, their committees and so on.

In this context, I am extremely excited about the creation of the position of coordinator of comprehensive volunteerism. I have written of this program before. It is designed to provide the best possible organization and utilization of our volunteer resources. It is a program of volunteer identification, recruitment, assessment, matching, evaluation and reinforcement. With the transfusion of new volunteer manpower into the system - it is even
(cont. on 2)

PEOPLE FIRST CONVENTION

The People First of Nebraska Convention, held in Kearney on October 6th, 1979, was the second successful statewide convention of mentally handicapped adults to be held in Nebraska.

The first, held in Lincoln in 1978, was the result of the idea of one man, Ray Loomis; his idea inspired the members of Project II to provide the hard work and dedication necessary to bring about this important event. After this first convention, the mentally and physically handicapped persons around the state

began to form their own groups, to communicate with each other, and to support each other.

The planning for this year's convention at Kearney hit a serious obstacle when Ray Loomis entered the hospital for heart surgery in August. However, letters inviting people to register were sent and KETV, Channel 7, promised to do public service announcements. Although Ray died without leaving the hospital, Project II's new leaders, strengthened by the example of Ray's courage, decided to go ahead with the convention.
(cont. on 4)

80'S CRUCIAL (cont.)

more crucial that we define clearly the parameters within which we all operate and contribute to the ARC movement here in Omaha.

I am extremely pleased that Sherry Noley will be coordinating this new thrust for us. Ms. Noley not only has a genuine commitment to volunteerism, having spent two years as the executive director of a national organization with 120 affiliates whose major focus was volunteers and voluntary associations, she also - and perhaps more importantly - has a genuine commitment to GOARC and an understanding of its importance in the scheme of things.

As a relatively new resident of Omaha (just six months), I am somewhat surprised that many area people do not realize the prominent place that Nebraska and especially Omaha hold in the national mental retardation community. We who have lived elsewhere know that Omaha is often regarded as the center of things for those involved in the field of mental retardation.

The Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha has and has had members and staff who have become nationally and internationally prominent. In addition, the ARC here in Omaha has contributed even more - the genesis, in 1970, of the Eastern Nebraska Community Office on Retardation (ENCOR). ENCOR, now a separate entity, is funded publicly and included among its present and past staff are individuals who are also known around the country.

Over the last twenty years the meaning of the phrase "rights of the mentally retarded" has changed. At one time it referred to humane care in an institutional setting. Now it means community-based education, treatment, homes and jobs. In other words, it means full citizenship under the nation's Constitution and Bill of Rights.

It is through the significant support of volunteers that the Association for Retarded Citizens can ensure that Omaha (and, in a sense, the United States) continues its commitment to the contemporary ideologies of normalization and integration for people with mental retardation. Our goal of strengthening community-based programming for children and adults with mental disabilities is a challenge that cannot be met without the goodwill and dedication of the volunteer segment.

This is more crucial than most realize. For if community programming fails in Omaha (and Nebraska), I am convinced that it will effect the entire country in various ways. Community-based programming and the contemporary ideologies will be effected everywhere and those of us who have worked so diligently for the rights of citizens who also happen to have mental retardation will lose the ground we have gained during the past twenty years or so.



Charles E. Tressler II

It is for this reason that it may be even more crucial than we realize that in order to do the most effective job we must get our "organizational house" completely in order. Hopefully, the staff has set the stage for this during the past six months. Such house-keeping tasks as the development of an organizational manual and a central filing system, staff reorganization, reallocation and sprucing-up of office space, formulation of new fund-raising options, an accessibility study, etc. are completed or well underway. Now it is time to zero in on those gray areas that exist in the rest of the organization. If this is done - the possibilities for this organization are AGAIN limitless.

Gift cards for remembering birthdays, anniversaries, and special occasions with a donation to GOARC are available at the office. Also available are cards for our Memorial Program that allows donations to be made to GOARC in the name of a loved one. It is now possible to include GOARC as a beneficiary in your will. To ensure that such a bequest is legal, it is recommended that the following language be incorporated in wills and other legal documents:

I give and bequeath to the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens, a not-for-profit corporation organized under the not-for-profit corporation law in the State of Nebraska, having its principal office at 3212 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68131, the sum of _____ dollars to be used by said corporation for the purpose for which it is incorporated.

SPOTLIGHT ON SISTER MARY EVANGELINE

by Alice Blackstone

The first time Sister Mary Evangeline asked her superior at St. James Orphanage, Msgr. Ulrich, if she could start a school for the mentally retarded, he gave her what he thought was a firm "NO."

By the second go-round, Father has wised up. "Why ask me?", he counter-questioned. "You've already started one, haven't you?"

She had. For almost a year, several mentally retarded children had been meeting daily at Madonna School in a classroom no longer needed by orphans. Because of changes in social philosophy, they were now being housed with foster families.

"When God tells you to do something," Sister explains with a knowing smile, "You have to do it. The boss, you know."

By the time the archdiocese needed the space for other purposes, Madonna had grown into a full-scale operation and Sister had her eye on a "for sale" sign on a nearby church. The building, she was sure, with some alteration would be perfect; the Lutherans who owned it were willing and anxious to sell; the price was reasonable. However, there was one problem -- no money -- an asset the trim, blue-eyed nun knows is important but one she doesn't necessarily put at the top of her personal priority list.

From early childhood in Kansas City, Sister had been taught that dedication, compassion, faith and lifetime goals were more important than money.

When she was six, her father died and her mother went to work in a factory to support her and two younger sisters.

When she developed an ulcer in one of her eyes, her mother, unwilling to rely wholly on medical science, made a novena to St. Theresa. The eye cleared -- a miracle, perhaps, but certainly a testimony to maternal devotion.

From a younger sister, who was deaf, she learned that handicapped people can succeed; from a parish priest who played Santa Claus to the family during the lean years she learned the importance not only of sharing, but of protecting the dignity of the "have-nots."

Her mother's unselfish support helped her persevere in her ambition to become a teaching nun. In 1938, she entered Mt. Loretto, a convent run by the Sisters of Mercy in Council Bluffs. There she trained for her life's work.

Everything, it seemed, in Sister's experience strengthened her belief in people. When she needed money for a down payment on a building for Madonna, she naturally turned to the parents of the children in the school. For 6 to 8 weeks they rang doorbells, peddled key chains and other trinkets until the necessary \$20,000 was raised.



PHOTO BY R. COLEMAN

When she needed \$80,000 more, she found an anonymous donor who lent the money to her without interest. In 1971, Madonna School moved into its new building at 62nd and Miami where it currently serves about 60 students through grade and high school.

Wonder Woman?

Miracle Worker?

"No," says Sister Evangeline, "just another example of the innate goodness in people that comes out when you let them know you need their help."

Yet, with all this downplay on money, when asked to name the toughest problem she encounters, Sister answers "money." Madonna, like other institutions, fights a constant battle against mounting costs of utilities and maintenance.

"But," Sister hastens to add, "with the help of our parents, the Mother's group, fathers, Madonna Council and countless others, we always manage to squeak through."

Although Sister is Catholic, Madonna School is not. Children are accepted on the basis of need, not religion. The local archdiocese provides some funds but so do the Lutherans and other faiths. Since the passage of the state law that says all children are entitled to an education, Madonna contracts with OPS and other districts to serve children who otherwise wouldn't be served.

As you walk through the classrooms and hallways, you can't help but notice the number of framed, inspirational messages on the walls. The one in Sister's office is especially appropriate:

"When you reach the end of your rope,
Tie a knot and hang on."

Lucky thing for Madonna School. When it comes to tying knots, Sister Evangeline is not only a whiz, but a natural.

(PEOPLE FIRST CON'T)

Held this year at the Fort Kearney Inn, the convention began at 11:00 a.m. with registration for 250 people. After lunch, Ollie Rector and Nancy Loomis led the afternoon session, with Ollie in charge of "warm-up" keeping everyone happy with jokes. The main speaker, Randy Kitch, talked about the future of the self-advocacy movement. Randy, who has cerebral palsy, talks by using a speak-and-spell board which he operates with his foot. He directs a project funded by the federal government to help groups all over the country organize to develop self-advocacy skills.

Topics at the afternoon workshops included: "Rights and Responsibilities", "How to Stick Up for Yourself", and "How to Start Your Own Group". Nancy Loomis, Ollie Rector, George Sanders, Lowell Rector, Chris Corso, Pat Miller, and Jack Conrad led these workshops.

In the evening, Inez Edwards and Jack Conrad hosted Project II's hospitality room; a videotape of KETV's program on Ray Loomis, We Are People First, was available for viewing by people who live outside the Omaha area; a steak dinner was followed by a disco dance; and a dance contest was run by Redd Tagg, a disc jockey from Kearney.

Workshops and the election of state officers were held the next day. The well-received workshops were led by Omaha's Larry Swan, Tom Miles, Dave Menousek, Shirley Dean and Barb Jessing.

People First of Nebraska ended its second convention with the resolve to continue to grow and become strong. It resolved that local groups communicate with each other through a newsletter. It resolved that the mentally and physically handicapped speak out about their rights and responsibilities. Most importantly, it resolved that the idea Ray Loomis had more than two years ago will live on and continue to change for the better the lives of People First of Nebraska.

Synergist, the national publication of ACTION, reviewed an article by Sherry Noley in their fall issue. Sherry now works at the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens as executive secretary to Chuck Tressler. Before coming to Omaha to work as a Pilot Parent Outreach Specialist, Sherry was the Executive Director of The Commission on Voluntary Service and Action in New York City. Her article, "Service Learning from the Agency's Perspective", recommends ways to counteract the disappointment that occurs when high student expectations meet the realities of service agency life. Her article first appeared in New Directions for Higher Education, Summer 1977.

A HISTORY OF PROJECT II By Jack Conrad

Project II was started by Ray Loomis in 1975. He had a brainstorm. At first he thought of calling it "rap session" but he didn't think that sounded right, so he went back to GOARC to talk to Tom Miller, then called it Project II.

When it first started there were only about five people there--six counting Tom--but then the word got around and more people started coming to our meetings.

Raymond started it so people could get help solving their problems at work and other places. Now we have a new set of officers: Nancy Loomis is Chairperson, Ollie Rector is Vice-President, and Tom Houlihan is Treasurer. We had our last election in November.

Ray thought of having a convention for People First of Nebraska in Lincoln in August of 1978. We had a convention in October of 1979 in Kearney. Two hundred and fifty came. We elected new statewide officers and had a good time.

We would like to see more young men and women come to join our program. If you would like to join, you can contact the GOARC office. Ask for Jack Conrad or Nancy Loomis. If they're not there, ask for Paula Fox, or leave a message where we can contact you.

PROJECT II REPORTS

Elections . . . by Chris Corso

Nancy said that she loves to be a President of Project II. Mrs. Rector said that she likes to be Vice-President of Project II, and it is fun. Tom said that he wanted to be an accountant for a long time. I said, "And that's the way it is".

ENCOR . . . by Jim Tomes

One of the staff makes some awful food and sometimes I don't want to eat here. One of the staff drives crummy. We have a good manager. I am treated well. There are four clients and myself. There are two teenage volunteers who come to the residence to work with me.

Angels . . . by Dave Menousek

We are people first. Project II painted angels for Brandeis. Brandeis gives them to the public for a donation and GOARC receives the profit to help get people into the community. Project II worked long hours on this project; the whole group helped. We painted about 10,000 angels. Project II keeps up to demand.

Myths and Misconceptions

JoAnn Balcetis, new GOARC Board member teaches Senior High School at J. P. Lord School. Her pupils include individuals with brain damage and physical handicaps. She served as an area coordinator for this year's Honey Sunday and is a volunteer counselor for Planned Parenthood. She answers some questions concerning myths and misconceptions about mental retardation.

WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THOSE MENTAL HANDICAPS?

Ignorance, superstition and fear. Primitive societies, for instance, felt compelled to destroy any newborns who were obviously handicapped. Vespasian, the Roman Emperor, put to death all sick, elderly and handicapped persons, and in modern times the Nazi regime systematically disposed of the mentally and physically handicapped.

DID ALL SOCIETIES HOLD THIS SAME VIEW?

No, in some European courts during the middle ages the mentally handicapped were regarded as good luck symbols and kept as jesters. But, in general, they were ostracized and hidden away.

Prior to the 19th century, people with behavior disorders that we now regard as illnesses, were punished as criminals. As more humane attitudes evolved, state institutions were established for the care of the mentally handicapped and the mentally ill. Unfortunately, both groups of people were lumped together in one category and treated in one place. These institutions gave rise to another myth; the mentally handicapped must have lifelong custodial care for their own -- or society's -- protection.

HAVE ANY PREJUDICE AND IGNORANCE ABOUT MENTAL HANDICAPS SURVIVED TO PLAGUE US IN 1980?

Of course. Many with retardation are viewed as being child-like and doomed to utter and complete dependence. They are seen as incapable of reaching maturity and maintaining a self-directed independence; it is also believed that they are subject to unusual suggestibility and can be led by their noses.

WHAT ABOUT SEXUALITY?

It is still an area where there are many prevailing misconceptions. Parents and members of the community have many concerns and they are looking for guidance and support. It is important that sexual outlets

and appropriate behavior be discussed with the adolescent and adult, as overlooking such discussions can often lead to inappropriate public displays. Very normal sexual urges and desires are experienced, leading to the need and right to establish meaningful personal friendships and marriage. Sweden has special apartment facilities where the couple can live. California has also initiated some programs; but the idea is still not widely accepted.

WHY NOT?

Because of the belief that those with mental handicaps cannot understand the nature of the marriage relationship or the marriage contract.

ISN'T THIS A VALID OBJECTION?

No. Think of all the non-handicapped persons having difficulties maintaining marriage contracts, understanding and coping with the intricacies of a mutual relationship. Studies show that successful living is not solely the function of a high intelligence. In fact, research indicates that no high correlation exists between intellectual level and adjustment to community living. Rather, successful adjustment is more closely related to adequate preparation.

Those with mental retardation can benefit from the counseling offered to all of us when contemplating sex, marriage, and parenthood, can understand the special problems they are dealing with, can assess the feasibility of parenthood for themselves, and can learn to act responsibly in such matters.

Dybwad Award Winner in France

Patty Smith, former Pilot Parent Coordinator for GOARC and recipient of the Dybwad Award, attended a luncheon held for Gunnar and Rosemary Dybwad at the Latin American Club in Paris. Also present were Mr. Jacques Gehmaliz, the Secretary General of the International League of the Mentally Handicapped as well as representatives of UNESCO and the French Association of the Mentally Handicapped.

The award presented annually to a worker in the field of mental retardation provides a stipend for travel and research. Ms. Smith first visited facilities in England and Sweden, then concluded her tour with a stay in France. She presented the Pilot Parent Program to groups in Marseilles, Antibes, and Nice. Schools, residential systems, and the latest innovative programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities were on her itinerary.

Before returning to the U.S., Ms. Smith stopped in Toronto to report her findings to the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded. She lives in Omaha with her six children and is a consultant for Meyer Children's Rehabilitation Institute.

IS YOUR DISABILITY COVERED?

In its section 504 regulation, HEW identifies a handicapped person as anyone with a physical or mental disability that substantially impairs or restricts one or more of such major life activities as walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, working or learning. A history of such disability, or the belief on the part of others that a person has such a disability, whether it is so or not, also is recognized as a handicap by the regulation. Handicapping conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Alcoholism*
- Cancer
- Cerebral Palsy
- Deafness or hearing impairment
- Diabetes
- Drug Addiction*
- Epilepsy
- Heart Disease
- Mental or Emotional Illness
- Mental Retardation
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Orthopedic, speech, or visual impairment
- Perceptual handicaps such as dyslexia, minimal brain dysfunction, developmental aphasia.

*The U.S. Attorney General has ruled that alcoholism and drug addiction are physical or mental impairments that are handicapping conditions if they limit one or more of life's major activities.

YOUR DISABLED CHILD'S RIGHT TO EDUCATION

No later than school year 1978-79, your state and local school district must provide under section 504 an appropriate elementary and secondary education for your physically or mentally disabled child. This public education must cost you no more than it costs parents of nonhandicapped children.

**The material on this page was reprinted from the pamphlet *Your Rights As A Disabled Person*, printed by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare 391 regarding the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

This is true no matter which of the following education settings you and your public school district decide is best for your child.

A regular public school classroom.

A special education public school program.

A residential school if the public school has no appropriate program.

An appropriate education in a hospital if your child is receiving long-term patient care.

Your public school district *must* provide an education for your child regardless of the type or severity of his or her disability.

You and your child have even more specific protection under the Education for All Handicapped Children Act.

The Act says your state *must*:

Locate every disabled child and young person, age 6-17, living in the state by September 1, 1978 and begin their education at public expense.

If public education is required for children age 3-5, locate them by September 1, 1978 and begin their education at public expense.

If public education is required for disabled youth, age 18-21, locate them by September 1, 1980 and begin an appropriate program for them at public expense.

Give priority attention, first, to disabled children receiving no public education and, second, to the most severely handicapped children in each disability group who are currently receiving an inadequate education.

The Education for All Handicapped Children Act says you and your public school district should work together in the interest of your child's education, happiness, and physical and emotional well-being.

The school district must develop -- with your advice and consent -- an individualized education program for your child and give you *in writing*:

A statement of learning goals it will try to help your child reach.

A list of special aids which will be provided such as braille books if your child is blind or a high desk if your child uses a wheelchair.

A schedule to review periodically your child's progress and, with your consent, make program revisions as needed.

An explanation of your rights of due process under the law which include your right to written notice from the school of major changes proposed in your child's program or program location.

Northwestern Bell Jaycees, 1920-1979

Two events took place in 1920 that mark the beginning of sixty year's tradition of service that has significantly benefitted the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens. In 1920 Mrs. Mildred Lathrop, a Northwestern Bell Operator for Homer, Nebraska won the Vail Gold Medal for Public Service for her heroism in remaining at her switchboard and warning her neighbors of a flash flood.

Then, in the same year, the National Organization of Jaycees was founded in St. Louis. The Omaha Chapter of this organization was soon established and it was the Omaha Jaycees who began Honey Sunday in 1966. Furthermore, it is the Omaha Jaycees who have opened their membership to women, contrary to the policy of the parent organization.



Northwestern Bell, Omaha Jaycees, women, and public service all converged in this year's Honey Sunday campaign when the Northwestern Bell subgroup of the Omaha Jaycees was chaired by Joan Steward. She is pictured with Wendy Bartlett and Paul Nelson, co-workers at Bell, and Marcia Ladendorff of KETV-Channel 7 who was this year's Honorary Chairperson.

Their costumes were hot and uncomfortable and the hours they spent wearing them indicate the spirit they brought to this year's campaign. Wendy served as publicity chairperson and Paul coordinated on Honey Saturday. Everyone at GOARC who had the pleasure of working with them remains grateful for their generous contribution of time and talent.

BILLION-DOLLAR VOLUNTEERS

You'll be hearing more about the Comprehensive Volunteer Program as the various aspects of it unfold during the next several months. Primarily, our major goal is to better match the skills, interests and commitment of volunteers to the needs of the ARC. This will enable us to provide better services and more meaningful volunteer experiences. It's interesting to note that the U.S. Department of Labor has estimated that by now the volunteer work force contributes \$30 billion annually to the United States economy.

We will be asking everyone at GOARC to complete a "profile" form for our records. Job descriptions will be written and available to each person who volunteers.

Do you enjoy what you're doing now? Would you like to do more -- or something different? Here's a list of our WANT ADS for the first part of the year.

OFFICE ASSISTANTS -- We always have a need for folks who will lend a hand with some of our mailings and other tasks such as filing and typing. Do you know how to use an addressing machine, the mimeograph, paper folder -- or are you willing to learn?

LIBRARY -- We have lots of books and periodicals which need to be organized in a more usable way so they can be more readily available for parents, students and professionals. This is a real challenge to someone who would like to start this project from scratch.

MEMBERSHIP -- We're going to have an ambitious campaign for new members during the first quarter and will need at least 20 persons to make telephone calls during the first week of February. There will be at least one very large mailing in February for which we'll need lots of help preparing, addressing, stuffing, etc. Our most challenging need for the drive is a core of 100 persons to make follow-up phone calls in March.

TYPISTS FOR HONEY SUNDAY CERTIFICATES -- This is a job that can be done either at home if you have a typewriter or at the office. We like to show our gratitude to HONEY SUNDAY volunteers and need at least six persons to be responsible for completing these certificates.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU -- How about joining us in a campaign which will aid in public awareness, prevention, education and membership? We need people who are willing and able to speak to various community groups, schools, colleges, etc. to share their knowledge and enthusiasm about the ARC.

How about giving Dena a hand with our on-going membership files at the office? They need to be updated monthly. She is willing to train someone in all the details related to this job and would really appreciate an office assistant for this task.

Call me at 348-9220 to sign up for those jobs which interest you.

(cont. on 8)

VOLUNTEERS (cont.)

Bonnie Shoultz was recognized as Volunteer of the Month (November) by the Volunteer Bureau of the United Way of the Midlands for her outstanding supportive role in Project II and other involvements at GOARC. Watch the SUN newspaper for a feature article on Bonnie

MANY THANKS to Wes Woodhead and Doris White for their contributions on the Christmas angel project. Jack Conrad was also very helpful. To everyone who was part of this project --THANKS for your quick response. We put faces on 37,000 individual angels in about seven weeks. The combined efforts of Brandeis and GOARC during the Christmas season resulted in a lot of visibility for our organization, as well as additional financial support.

And then there's Jane Zellhoefer, who has been volunteering an average of one day a week to assist us in the creation/development of a new central filing system. She has also recorded the GAZETTE on tape for use by anyone interested. Jan is an active volunteer for Radio Talking Book and also edits and distributes a newsletter in her home neighborhood. She offered this message to GAZETTE readers:

"As have many people, I've drifted in and out of contact with GOARC. Recently, however, I've been doing volunteer work in the office and it's surprising (and a pleasure) how much closer I feel to the organization now. The people are super and the spirit is definitely 'UP'. It's a good feeling!"

Jane Zellhoefer

All these persons represent the spirit and quality of unpaid staff persons at GOARC. It is exciting to work with all of you.

--Sherry Noley

OMBUDSPERSON BRIEFS ENCOR

Patty Gross, Developmental Disabilities Ombudsman, presented a briefing on the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens to new employees of the Eastern Nebraska Community Office of Retardation on January 7th, at an orientation held at the Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church.

CHILD CARE SERVICE

Any individuals interested in a short term (one to two hours) child care service for families with children with retardation, please contact Terry Casey (558-3183) or the Children's Service Committee. If there is enough interest the Committee will work to turn this idea into a reality.



GOARC

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