

Disability *Writes*

FREE
COPY

A National Disabled People's Publication

FIGHTING BACK

The Siege of Telethon

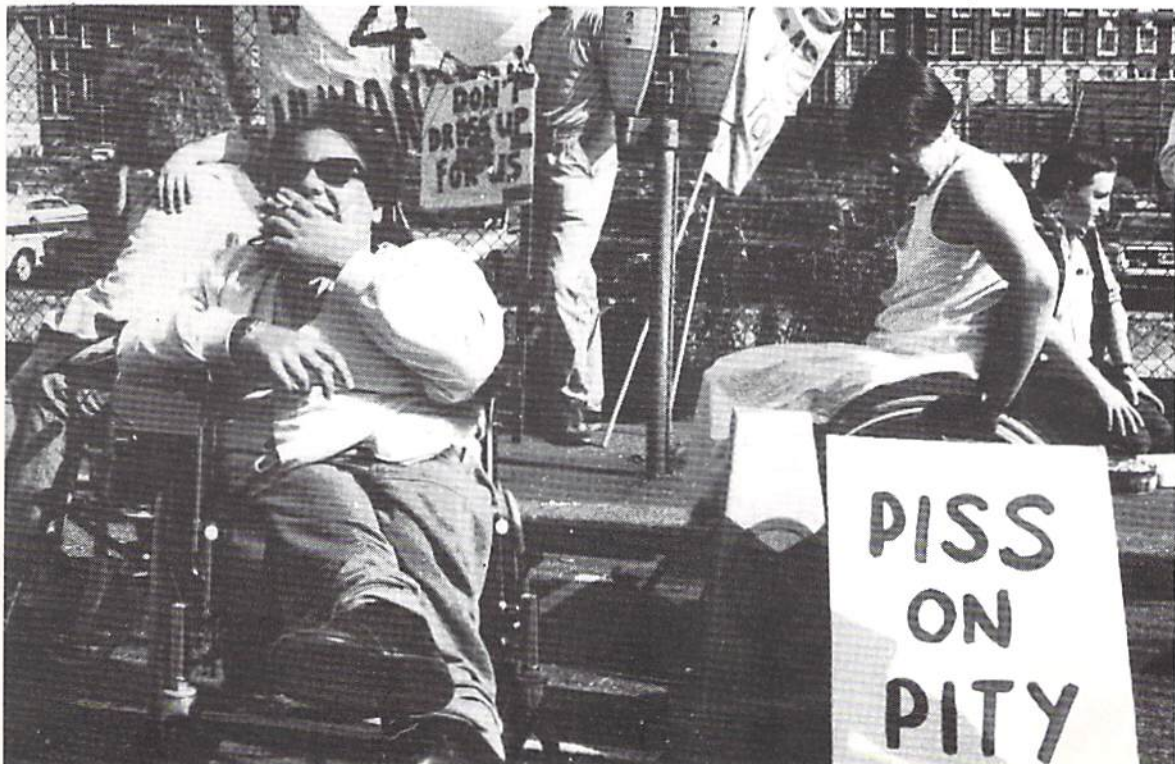
Over 2000 disabled people are set to descend on London's South Bank in opposition to Telethon '92. The demonstration called for Saturday 19 July will protest against the patronising and demeaning activities associated with the fund-raising jamboree.

Building on the success of the action taken against Telethon '90 the organisers expect to stage the largest ever demonstration by disabled people in this country.

A spokesperson for the *Block Telethon* campaign said, "this demonstration will clearly show that Telethon, and the people involved, have no mandate from disabled people. We

believe, through strength, we can stop Telethon ever happening again".

Instead of Telethon, and the other TV charity "spectaculars", the campaign is calling for the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation to guarantee basic human rights, "Our demands are quite simple, we want Rights not Charity!".



Free Pilot Issue July 1992 *Block Telethon!*

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Here we are, at long last, the Pilot Issue of *Disability Writes*.

We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the tremendous enthusiasm shown for the magazine. We have received well over three thousand completed questionnaires, letters and phone calls asking for the Pilot copy.

We've been inundated with requests from people wanting to contribute to the magazine. This is what we want to see; lots of new people being involved, not just established writers.

This Pilot is a working model of what we want *Disability Writes* to be. Judging from the feedback we've so far received it's also what you want; a magazine committed to supporting campaigns, keeping people in touch with events, activities etc, and a springboard for ideas and debate.

In order to go forward we need to know what you think of the Pilot; especially those of you who haven't completed questionnaires.

We will be spending the rest of the summer, and most of autumn, considering your responses, undertaking further research and finalising our plans for the future. As soon as we have details of when the magazine is to be launched and how you can subscribe we will let you know.

Meanwhile, *Disability Writes* on...

Martin

PS It's not too late if you also want to be considered as a writer, photographer, cartoonist, poet etc, just drop us a line including examples of your work if possible. We'll keep a record and get back to you as soon as we've finalised payment rates and guidelines for contributors.

Disability Writes

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Prize draw winners

1st Prize Helen Porter

2nd Prize Hilda Rogers

3rd Prize P. Ladd

4th Prize N. Markham

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Disability Writes is a disabled people's magazine; produced by disabled people for disabled people.

Disability Writes will not knowingly accept or produce any material that discriminates or causes offence on the grounds of sex, race, sexuality or disability.

The Power Kit

The add-on Power Kit for wheelchairs.

***Finally ...
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The Kit is a bolt-on adaptive unit that motorizes any standard manual wheelchair. It is a simple yet extremely effective device that allows the user to shift from manual piloting to electrically powered control and vice versa with one easy movement.

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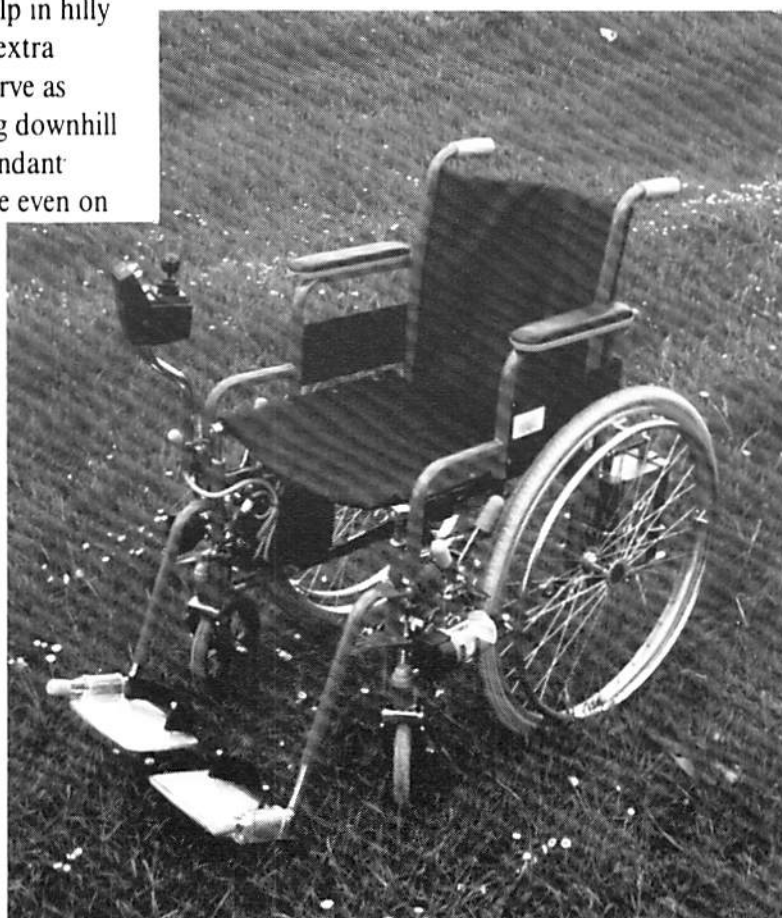
2.5 Kg.

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Contact

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Desperate for DAN

A clash of cultures formed the backdrop for a further chapter in the Disability Movement's struggle for civil rights.

The venue, Ashwellthorpe Hotel, the Disabled Drivers Association HQ, an institution for DDA members on their annual "pilgrimage".

The occasion, a conference of radical disability activists seeking to form a national Direct Action Network (DAN).

Many disabled people have become increasingly disenchanted with the apparent lack of progress by conventional means.

It has been felt that the multitude of meetings and negotiations we get sucked into have been a convenient way for those in power to retain control.

Direct action has been seen as a way to break the log jam.

Over the past couple of years the number of 'actions' has multiplied, with national rallies to

By Mike Bramley

support single issue campaigns like the Campaign for Accessible Transport in London and the Chesterfield Anti Pedestrianisation Campaign.

They have been characterised by the determination of those involved; to the extent of getting arrested, risking fines and even prison sentences.

The conference was organised in recognition of this commitment and the need to provide support to these groups and individuals.

Participants were a cross section of disabled people who have experience of direct action; numbers only limited by the capacity of the venue.

The aim was to gauge opinion on the need for a national DAN and understand how it might operate.

It was soon obvious that the need was not in question. Richard Wood, Director of BCODP, explained that other civil rights groups used direct action as a necessary part of the struggle to achieve their aims. DAN could and should be used to focus direction, raise awareness and back up the political discussions already taking place.

The conference discussed short term activities and people agreed to begin the process of organising a network.

The next meeting will be held at the BCODP conference in Nottingham.

With the support of the wider disability movement, DAN will no longer be desperate.

Further details can be obtained by contacting Alan Holdsworth, 3 Crawley Road, Wood Green, London N22 6AN

Back to the barricades

Flushed with success in their campaign for accessible public transport, the American disabled people's group ADAPT have now turned their attention to the issue of Personal Assistance.

A new name, American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today, but the same commitment to mass action. In May over 300 ADAPT members converged on Chicago to lay siege to the headquarters of the American Medical Association.

ADAPT have targeted the AMA because doctors own nursing homes; they force patients into nursing homes; and their powerful lobby could force the authorities to provide attendant services.

ADAPT has demanded that the AMA decrease nursing home admissions by 25 percent.

The demonstrators warm-up by blockading the offices of the Health and Human Services (HHS). No one is able to get in - or out - unless they climb and crawl over the protesters. The purpose behind "door-blocking" is not to get arrested, just to cause the maximum amount of inconvenience.

The next day ADAPT descend on the AMA offices, blocking sixteen streets and four

intersections. The police response is to barricade the main entrances to keep the demonstrators at bay. This results in many of the ADAPT members throwing themselves out of their wheelchairs and crawling up to bang and hammer on the wooden barricades.

The on-going action, culminating in the blockading of the State of Illinois building, finally provoked a response from the Chicago Tribune. They ran a long story on ADAPT and quoted an unnamed official as saying, "one of the strongest points in their civil disobedience is making themselves look as pathetic as possible. Their history is rife with attention-grabbing acts of protest". Long may it continue!

(Details from *The Disability Rag*).

Begging for Business

When did YOU last put money in a collecting tin? Did you feel good - feel you were doing your bit to make someone's life easier or clean up the atmosphere?

Charities are big business; some have been around over one hundred years and the trouble is that they get bigger instead of smaller. If you are a disabled person there is probably at least one charity set up especially to "help" people with your impairment and literally hundreds of other charities which aim to "improve" your educational opportunities, to "enhance" your employment prospects, to "enrich" your leisure time and to "develop" your independence skills. Aren't we lucky?

Lap of luxury

Just look at all the money that events like Telethon and Children in Need raise - if we need a holiday or a new wheelchair or our guide dog is getting a bit clapped out, why we can just apply for the money to get a new one and maybe the local Telethon committee will give us some dosh. In fact I don't understand why disabled people are not living in the lap of luxury, given all this fund raising that people are doing for us.

There's the rub - **ARE** they doing it for us? Did they **ASK** us what we need to be independent? Did they **ASK** us what would have improved our education? And did they **ASK** our permission to beg for money for us? No, to every question.

Helping disabled people

Telethon '90 raised over £20,000,000 and "helped" over 14,000 charities according to Joe Simpson, the Secretary of the Independent Broadcasting Telethon Trust. Joe Simpson is quoted as saying that he actually

agrees with many Telethon critics about the negative and demeaning portrayal of disabled people, so much so that Telethon have actually funded "Disability Equality Training" and have published guidelines on the

they have done their bit towards solving that problem. Telethon "teaches" the public that disabled people are to be looked after and "cared for"; it raises money and then gives it, not to us, but to charities so that they can employ people to look after us.

Grace and favour

Even if charity fund raising were the answer, it would need to happen with our cooperation and permission - and we certainly have not given either. But charity fund raising can never be the answer when it means that some people have to rely on the goodwill of others for the basic necessities of life.

The issues surrounding the growing opposition

to Telethon are only bewildering if you confuse charity and caring with basic human rights. I haven't met any (reasonable) people who would not agree that everyone has a **RIGHT** to a decent education, meaningful employment, a place of their own to live. If these things are seen as rights, how can we condone the fact that a lot of disabled people rely on the "grace and favour" of charities to



representation of disabled people on screen! (Well hush my mouth!)

But images and portrayal are not the only issue, and it is misleading to concentrate on that aspect of the argument without addressing this notion of "helping" disabled people. Opponents of Telethon say it does not help us, rather it presents us as a problem and then convinces the public that by giving money

provide them? For grace and favour is exactly what it is; nobody has a "right" to anything that is provided by the charities, it's all discretionary. And the charities are shored up by the people who donate money to them, who support them in "caring" for the less fortunate - that's you and me, in case you didn't know.

Selling out

As long as disabled people are prepared to sit back and be "cared for" we will have events like Telethon; and disabled people who are selling out by being involved with the organisers - advising them how to make better fund raising programmes, for example - are only perpetuating the exploitation of disabled people.

So, are YOU going to sit by while commercial television stages this jamboree on our behalf, asking your neighbours to donate money to a worthy cause (you), and telling the whole country how wonderful it is for caring?

Instead, why not call the TV station and register your protest, tell your friends and neighbours about the real issues around Telethon, insist that they donate direct to a disabled peoples' organisation and cut out all these do-gooders. Block Telethon.

Central TV 071-486-6688

Granada TV 061-832-7211

LWT 071-620-1620

Yorkshire TV 0532-438283

Article by Lorraine Gradwell

MESSAGE FROM TELETHON

*Come and get your money grateful crips,
This year was better than ever before,
There'll be millions of Blackpool trips,
Endless segregated fun in store.
We know that some of you will protest,
Never came to terms with your tragic fate,
We don't mind, you do your best,
And we don't want to discriminate.*

*It's a message from Telethon to you,
There's a line of them saying,
How much they care for you
And it's said so often, it must be true....*

*Telethon is good for everyone,
Prime time slots for plc's,
Sponsored pub-crawls are lots of fun,
Pop stars plug their new LPs.
Those of you at home who ring to give,
Feel a warm contented glow,
Dying children get to live,
You protest, but you don't say "NO"!*

*It's a message from Telethon to you,
A whole line of them saying,
How much they do for you
And it's said so often, it must be true....*

*Wheel up and down, belt your slogans out,
"Rights not charity, give us a say!"
Safe in the knowledge as you shout,
A big fat cheque is on its way.
Where does realism end and selling out begin?
How many principles per credit card?
Telethon has got you, you'll never really win,
Charity degrades you, but poverty's hard.*

*It's a message from Telethon to you,
A whole line of them saying,
How much they gave to you
And it's said so often, it must be true.....*

Cathy Avison

Spotlight on BCODP

After a decade of struggle in the face of with chronic underfunding and the stranglehold on resources exercised by the major disability charities, the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP) is now firmly established as the representative voice of disabled people in Britain. Disability Writes interviews BCODP Director Richard Wood.

When and why was BCODP set up?

The idea that the disabled people's movement is a fairly recent creation is true in one sense, but it does give the impression that before 1981, disabled people were not active on disability issues. In truth, some organisations of disabled people, especially those representing visually impaired people, have been "active" for decades. What distinguishes this "new movement" is that it is based on a particular philosophy of what disability issues are and it is cross-impairment, that is it aims to represent all disabled people.

The early seeds of the movement as we now know it, were sown in organisations such as **The Union of the Physically Impaired Against Segregation (UPIAS)**. Back in the late 1970's this "radical" group of disabled people were hard at work re-defining disability and moving our thoughts away from the traditional individual medical model, which basically said the problem is ours, towards the social model in which we were saying that disability is caused by social factors and is therefore solvable.

Meanwhile, the medics and professionals, through **Rehabilitation International (RI)**, were once again meeting in Winnipeg, Canada, to decide, as always, what was best for us.

This was probably the first time that any major international conference around disability issues experienced the power of disabled people. British Disabled people were at the forefront of a resolution put to R. I. that at least 50% of their management board should be disabled people. Following the rejection of this proposal a small group of disabled people of different nationalities got together and decided to form their own international

organisation, **Disabled Peoples' International (DPI)**.

At the same time, in the U.K. disabled people angry with the **FOR** organisations' continued mis-representation of our views and needs decided to use the *International Year of Disabled People* (1981) to launch their own national assembly.

Given the mood and increasing anger of disabled people in this country in 1981, BCODP would have happened anyway.

The original forum of BCODP only contained 8 other national organisations of disabled people. Since that time, BCODP has expanded rapidly. In 1985 we had 17 members, in 1987 35 members and we now have over 80 member organisations in England, Scotland and Wales representing the broadest possible spectrum of disabled people.

What are BCODP's Successes?

It might be said that the ultimate success of BCODP and the disabled people's movement would be disabled people's full integration into society, full control over our lives and the

resources we require for independent living, and the dismantling of our organisations through the lack of need for them.

There is little doubt that disability issues in this country have been "stood on their head" by the movement.

The social model has had a massive impact on the thinking of local authorities, health authorities and other professionals, which in turn is starting to have a knock on effect on central government policies. They are coming to recognise that consultation with disabled people and their organisations must take place before services and strategies are introduced.

However, the greatest effect has been on disabled people themselves. Through our common experience of disability as a social model, we have come to recognise that disability is a human rights issue and that we face discrimination and oppression in every area of our lives.

The greatest success of BCODP and its members has been in organising around the issue of oppression. The fact that we have done this with virtually no funding is a tremendous achievement.

Over 200,000 people are members of the disability movement in this country. As a politically aware group of people you will find that we are second to none in the world.

The power that we have discovered through self



BCODP Co-Chairs Lucille Lusk & Jane Campbell

organisation has had real effect. Even going back to 1981, BCODP stopped Snowdon, et al from forming a national umbrella of organisations for disabled people, and in 1985, we stopped Lord Henderson from setting up a **Royal Commission on Disability** which would have excluded us. BCODP had active input into the *1986 Disabled Peoples Representation Act*, and into the *Griffiths review*.

More recently, we have been involved in setting up our own research programmes into discrimination against disabled people in Britain, disabling imagery and the media, and in promoting, both here and in Europe, independent living issues and research.

What are our failures ?

I have little doubt that if BCODP had ever been adequately funded then we would be much nearer to achieving our aims than we currently are. BCODP struggles to survive on a Central Government core grant of £30,000 per year (non representative **FOR** organisations get some £2 m).

One example of an area in which progress could have been made with extra resources is the provision of information. There is a wealth of information within BCODP and its member organisations, but, no one has the money to collate, publish and distribute it.

A second major problem has been our difficulty in supporting emerging organisations, and our inability to be

pro-active in setting up new groups. I am sure our membership would be at least double the current size.

Much of BCODP's development work is undertaken by our Officers and Council members, who give their own time (and money) to support new groups.

I'm sure that member groups will have their own views on how successful we have or haven't been. There are always things that we could have done but didn't, and things which we could have done better.

(continued Page 11)

SEGREGATION

TOKENISM

PATRONAGE

CHARITY

POVERTY

RIGHTS

DISCRIMINATION

PITY

Ernie

SPOTLIGHT ON...

The Future

Anti Discrimination

Legislation is now the focal point for the British movement, and we will continue the campaign until we achieve our rights.

The re-election of the present Government will make the passing of such legislation difficult. BCODP is, consequently, exploring ways of taking our demands into Europe. A major demonstration is being planned to coincide with the Council of Ministers meeting which will be held in Edinburgh in December.

Winning legal rights will not be the end of the story. We will still have to build our movement to ensure that the law is enforced (unlike the 1944 Employment Act).

We will continue to carry out research and to use the results as an instrument to create change. Our research into discrimination is increasingly being seen as one of the most significant documents ever published on disability issues in this country.

Finally

I think it is important that whilst the movement continues to grow and development, it must never forget the purpose of its existence. BCODP has always been a grassroots lead organisation. It has always provided a forum for disabled people to share views and reach agreement on how to tackle issues. It has, first and foremost, been about disabled people taking control over our own lives.

We have seen that we have the power to bring about change. We need to continue to harness that power and use it to ensure that one day every disabled person will be accepted as a full and equal member of society.

(See back page for details of how to contact BCODP)

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STAIRLIFTS

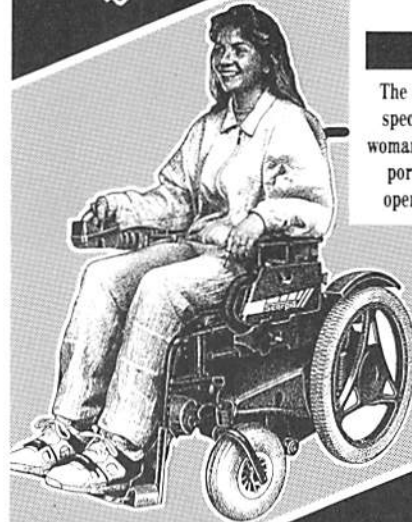
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DDW 201

TO SLAY THE ROCK PIG

Can you imagine Elvis in a wheelchair, telling people not to step on his *Blue Suede Shoes* or Eddie Cochrane swaggering on stage with crutches, and taking *Three Steps To Heaven* (what! no ramp) no?, neither can I! The image of the performer, the singer, the group etc, has been carefully nurtured; young men and women sneeringly healthy, able bodied and sexy as hell. Designed to reflect the illusory world of the advertising copy-writer.

In a recent edition of *'One in Four'*, presenter and Depeche Mode fan Mik Scarlett interviewed a representative of 4AD records about the lack of established disabled artists within the music business. Asked if he would sign disabled performers the representative replied something along the lines of, yes, if they were good enough, and they would even be promoted the same as any other act, *"but we could disguise their wheelchairs in the videos"*!

On the disability circuit there are some excellent performers,

By Gareth 'Bad boy' Jones

Johnny Crescendo, Ian Stanton and Astrid Menezes to name but three, but they remain virtually unknown to able-bodied punters. Take the case of Johnny, he has made many appearances at major events (as well as on the small screen), but are record companies falling over themselves to sign him up, unfortunately, I think not. Why? because disability doesn't fit easily into the image; sneeringly healthy, able bodied and sexy as hell (one out of three's not bad).

Furthermore, whilst several disabled artists show support for many worthwhile causes, few able-bodied performers give such support to the disability movement, or even play accessible gigs; there's not even a song from dear old Billy Bragg. Though a couple of years ago a singer called Momus recorded a song called *'Sex for the Disabled'*. Why? I've no idea, maybe he was into voyeurism. At one time Radical

Dance Faction, an able bodied, dub agit pop band from somewhere down south, to their credit only played accessible venues. They have since split up and reformed, and recently played the Boardwalk in Manchester, an inaccessible venue if there ever was one.

Which is sad because when I go to a gig, I get a real buzz, get carried away in the atmosphere and, especially if the band are really 'cranked up', come out inspired (for at least an hour) to form the next Clash or The Specials.

So, if you've just seen Crescendo etc and feel suitably inspired then 'crank up' your guitar and go for it - aim for the skies. Then it might not be much longer before we see disabled and non-disabled performers together in accessible venues. So come on you bad bottomed disabled rock 'n' rollers, crank up and get discovered.



Sick and Fed Up

"I'm tired Doctor."

*"Tired of sickness,
Tired of health
Always being
Just one step away
You mean?"*

*"No, tired of you!
Your anger about my
Disability.
Your reluctance to face
My reality.
I live! I breathe!
But to you
I'm just -
A case."*

Caroline Potter



Ian Stanton

FREEWHEELIN' - Ian Stanton

The steady growth of the disabled peoples' movement has proved a catalyst for the rapid expansion of disability arts both as a means of cultural expression and a platform for the protest songs of the movement. When both these aspects come together in one performer the result is compelling.

The cover notes of Ian Stanton's latest cassette say that he has been described as "the Bob Dylan of the disability arts movement" but the ten songs performed here show a wide range of styles from rock to Oldham poet to banjo-pickin' hillbilly. Whilst his subject matter covers broken hearts - or damaged ones at least - and past loves, the relentless passage of time and what it does to his crowning glory, the real soul of Ian's work is in his disability rights songs and they are the ones I would like to highlight in this review.

It must be very tempting to include works which are not specifically about disabled peoples' issues, but I find that I am impatient for them to finish and the real songs to begin.

Ian Stanton, or "Old Slaphead" as he is affectionately known, has been active in the disabled peoples' movement for seven or eight years now (?) and the content and scope of his work demonstrate how deep his involvement has been. Ian has the precious talent of putting into words those thoughts and ideas that you always knew you had, because you recognise them instantly when he sings.

Listen to the simple truth about the way disabled people are treated by "professionals" in "Remember Douglas Bader" and "The Glee Cub"; these songs come straight

from personal experience, and how many of us who learned basket weaving in our dim and distant past laugh at the description of daily life in an institution, but shiver inwardly at the memory?

"Message from Telethon", printed in full on page 7, is a joint composition from Ian and the late Cathy Avison who was one of the major influences in the disabled peoples' movement in Manchester and is sorely missed. Cathy's lyrics, "Where does realism end and selling out begin?" coupled with Ian's music, make for the definitive Telethon protest song and pull no punches.

Talking of which, "Pushin' 40", whilst not a disability rights song, nevertheless is about a subject quite familiar to some of us - and what's wrong with "strawberry meringue flesh" anyway?

Apart from "Message From Telethon" the two strongest songs, for my money, are "Tragic But Brave" and "Story". The first has been played at just about every performance that I have seen in the last year or two and each time, as the song says, "something stirs inside...".

And it's fitting to end this review with "Story" because it is about the continuing struggle which sometimes seems endless and even unwinnable. The disabled peoples' movement is still small, but growing, and as Ian says, "Your victory is in their fear.... we're not at the end of the story".

This is a brilliant collection of songs: buy it, listen, and act!

DAM

(Disability Arts Magazine)

This high-quality quarterly magazine is controlled, run & staffed by people with disabilities. It is a unique market for the work of disabled people.

- ☆ **DAM is about ...** *art based on the disability experience, the arts activities of people with disabilities and access to mainstream arts.*
- ☆ **DAM contains ...** *artwork (both visual and literary), articles, advertisements, news and a wealth of information.*
- ☆ **DAM is for ...** *disabled people interested in the arts, able-bodied people working in arts & disability and all people concerned with access to the arts.*

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Apply by post to: Update, Room 307, Cumberland House, Crown Square, Manchester M60 3BB, or telephone 061-234 7538 (Minicom for the hearing impaired). Disabled people and community and other groups will be added to the mailing until further notice. Others must renew every four weeks.

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MANCHESTER
City Council

Manchester

As a self-confessed son of Oldham, it does seem a bit odd that I should be writing of "My Town" as Manchester! But I do spend more time in and around Manchester than in my home town, so I suppose I do qualify - just about.

A Night on the Town

The Rainy City, as we sodden inhabitants laughingly call it, is much the same as any other British town, in that the choices of a night out for disabled people are, shall we say, somewhat restricted. There are lots of places which offer some kind of access, but not perfect access. In this brief article I do not pretend to say that the venues mentioned provide perfect access for all disabled people - even some with wheelchair-accessible loos can be guaranteed to store spare chairs or

cleaning materials in them. "But we never get any disabled people in here." Wonder why!

The thing I like about Manchester is that many of its attractions are within a fairly small area. There's a good range of theatres, clubs, pubs and eating places within throwing distance of Piccadilly and Albert Square.

If it's theatre that you crave, you might do worse than visit the **Contact Theatre** on Oxford Road. It provides good all-round access, including parking, induction loop and some signed performances. It puts on some pretty good productions, often of new works by local playwrights. The foyer and bar area lack a bit of atmosphere for me, and the seating in the theatre could have been better, but it's still one of the most accessible venues around.

Another is **The Green Room**, on Whitworth Street West. Built out of an old railway arch, the Green Room offers a wide variety of original and "alternative" treats from lesser-known artists and companies. The Green Room has shown a lot of support for disabled people's arts over the years, and can be guaranteed to stage any performances from disabled people's companies which might be touring at any particular time (and New Breed Theatre Company are based here). The bar and foyer is a bit cramped and spartan, but the atmosphere's very informal and the prices affordable. There's a wheelchair-accessible loo, too, and induction loop and occasional signed performances! Parking is limited but fairly safe if you can display an orange badge.

The Green Room - informal atmosphere and affordable prices



Now I have to confess that my favourite theatre in Manchester is probably one of the more inaccessible ones. The **Royal Exchange** has an atmosphere that is simply unrivalled in the North West. Big name casts and stunning stage settings, combined with a social-mixer of a foyer, make this "theatre in the round" an all-round delight. The shame is that the entrance for wheelchair users is "round the side", and must be pre-arranged so that a member of the theatre staff can unlock the door 30 minutes before curtain up. From there, though, everything's pretty accessible, and the theatre does offer induction loop and audio-description. Whatever, the Exchange's brilliant atmosphere makes it, for me, well worth any access hassles. Go and enjoy it.

The other big theatres like the **Palace** and the **Opera House** do have some limited access for disabled people, but although I've visited each of them they've never really set me alight with enthusiasm. Just a matter of taste, I'm afraid.

The Hulme end of Deansgate boasts a cluster of accessible **pubs** - the **Sawyer's Arms**, **Duke 92**, the **Pig 'n' Porcupine** and the **Duke of Bridgewater** - all fairly new or heavily refurbished. They're a bit plush for my spit 'n' sawdust preferences, but worth a visit and not far to stagger from one to the other. The **New Longsight** on Kirkmanshulme Lane is a bit of a way from the city centre, but again it's accessible and comfortable. If you fancy excellent beer and some of the fore mentioned spit 'n' stuff, though, try the **Grafton Arms** on Grafton Street (just off Oxford Road). It's comfortable, very friendly, and features "Fred (or whoever) on the keys" on weekend nights. All these pubs offer a good range of food at lunchtime, and sometimes in the evening.

If you fancy a pub with **live music** on six nights a week, and 10 different types of bitter (most of them of the "all fall down" variety), try the **Witchwood** on Old Street in Ashton-under-Lyne. It's about five miles from Manchester city centre but the atmosphere in the "music" room is superb. Often features disabled artists including yours truly and a brill singer/guitarist called Leigh Sterling. Sometimes there's a charge on the door if the band's fairly well-known or popular

locally. The pub's "no drugs, no dickheads" policy seems to keep remarkably good order.

The **Band on the Wall** offers flat access to disabled people, but although many of the bands that play there are great it's often a bit of a scrum (unrestrained pogo-ing was the order of the day when I went there). I can't remember much about the loo - maybe I couldn't get that far. Don't write it off on my say-so, though - remember I'm an old codger.

Manchester Town Hall





If you prefer something a bit more high-brow, the **Royal Northern College of Music** provides good classical music in an accessible and friendly environment. And we are assured that when the **Halle's** new concert hall is built it will incorporate good access facilities.

The recent growth of multi-screen **cinema** complexes has been kind to some parts of Greater Manchester. Belle Vue and Salford Quays are two such complexes which are a fairly short journey from Manchester city centre. Excellent access and a minimum of fuss emphasise the long-forgotten pleasure of being able to go out and be treated (more or less) like anyone else.

This has been a very quick guide to a very few of the options open to disabled people. Much of the city centre street environment is accessible, which helps. I'm not in the pay of the local tourist board - honest - but do visit and do talk to other local disabled people; they'll all have their own

ideas of the best places to visit (probably completely different from my own)!

Meeting People

Having worked for a disabled people's organisation in Manchester for the last six years, I've certainly seen a few changes, not least the improvements in accessibility.

Few things change without a good solid nudge, though. Disability groups in and around Manchester have been obliged to take quite a militant stance on more than one occasion to make sure that the needs of disabled people weren't overlooked.

Manchester Disability Forum (MDF), for instance, is a city-wide disabled controlled organisation. They played a major part in securing good access to the 18th Century, "listed building" town hall, and have campaigned on all kinds of issues. They hold regular meetings, and have a number of sub-groups - the "Access Group" is particularly

active - which are always hungry for new members.

One of the newest and most encouraging initiatives in the area is the **Manchester Disability Information Service (MDIS)**, one of ten pilot schemes selected by the Department of Health to improve the kind of information available to disabled people. MDIS was set up with a brief to explore new kinds of Information Technology to improve the accessibility of information, and has the potential to be of enormous benefit to disabled people and their organisations.

One of the most respected disability groups in the disabled people's movement is the **Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP)**. Covering the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester - from Wigan in the west to Oldham on the Yorkshire Boundary - the Coalition has had an enormous influence on disability politics in this country. It's fortnightly information sheet provides an

invaluable service to its members, and it's "Coalition" magazine has become an essential read for the good disabled activist.

A fierce campaigning group, the Coalition also offers a range of avenues for its members to get involved. Three projects offer disabled people training for employment and a chance to meet other disabled people - these are the Young Disabled People's Project (which also stages a regular weekly social event - "Kulture Klub"), the Volunteers Project, and the Disability Action Training Project. There are various open meetings, social occasions and informal gatherings, as well as the occasional demonstration or rally to attend.

The **Disabled People's Sub-Committee (DPSC)**, which is made up of representatives from disabled people's controlled groups in the city, guides disability policy within the city council. The Sub-Committee has been behind many of the council's equal opportunities initiatives, including the recent "Jobs Reservation Scheme" experiment. This was intended to help nudge the council's employment quota

figure towards the required three per cent and ultimately the ten per cent target set to reflect the local community, by offering all housing department jobs to "suitably qualified" disabled applicants.

The DPSC has also been the force behind the major access improvements across the whole City; access improvement grants to voluntary groups and small businesses, improvements to Council buildings, local shopping centres, housing estates, the City centre and local routes used by disabled people to go shopping or to work. Culminating in Manchester becoming one of the most accessible cities in Europe.

In the area of sport, **Manchester Disabled Athletes** have a long history of sporting excellence and a politically informed approach. MDA have boasted disabled Olympic athletes and involvement in the renowned demonstration of "Disabled People Against Apartheid" in the early 80s. A good social outlet, this, as their meetings at Stretford Sports Centre on Thursday nights involve as much time in the bar as in the pool or at the table tennis table.

Back amongst the Arts, **North West Shape** changed over to "user control" last year. They have made good progress away from the paternalistic approach of most Shape organisations and towards meeting the demands of disabled people. NW Shape recently staged the first of what it's hoped will be a regular cabaret night - a la London's "Workhouse" - in Manchester. Let's hope it flourishes.

Little enough happens in the way of disability arts in this area, but there are notable exceptions. Modesty prevents me from including myself in this, but **New Breed** is a local theatre group of disabled performers who are beginning to make a national reputation. And just down the M62, **No Excuses** disabled women's review offers political entertainment of the highest quality.

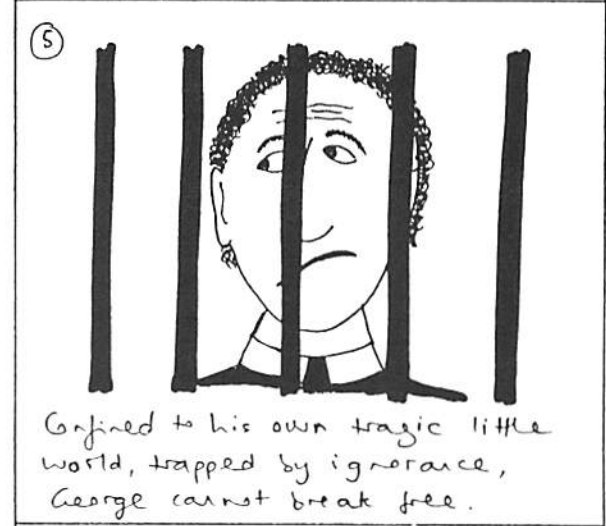
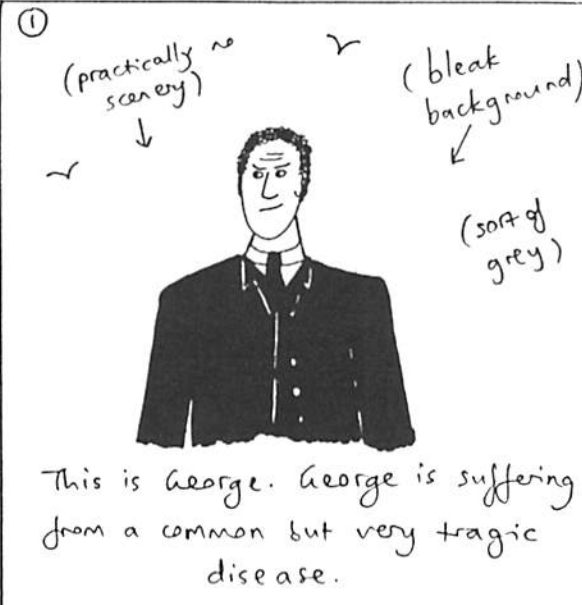
Finally

If you do come to Manchester, remember to bring your umbrella!

Ian Stanton



Manchester Information Centre



⑥

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DISABLED WOMEN - BIG SCREEN, SMALL SCREEN

"You think I'm crazy? Who wants to look at that?"

It's too downbeat. The girl's got a limp."

James T. Aubrey Jr., American President CBS-TV or Tennessee Williams' *"Glass Menagerie"*, suggested for TV.

By Anne Rae

Real issues

Numerous male characters real or fictional, have limped heroically down the ages, Lord Byron, Douglas Bader to name but two. War dramas feature men limping wearily home, to the warm and loving arms of the women left behind, but women must be cured of limps, or any other impairment come to that, before the loving arms of men can enfold them.

Recent exceptions, well, a recent except is Jean, the wife of *"TAGGART"* (networked ITV regions). Jean uses a wheelchair, is involved in disability issues, and lives a life independent of her husband. So far so good. But some of the real issues of being a disabled women have been ducked by placing her safely in the age range 50-60 ish, making it reasonably easy to avoid marital scenes which might throw up questions of sexuality and parenthood. Indeed, the relationship between Jean and Jim Taggart is asexual to the point that without knowing they are married, it could be safely assumed that they were siblings.

Nonsensical

Far worse are the older films in which disabled women, to be worthy of love, had to be cured, and cured by

the men who loved (loved?) them. *"AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER"* was a lulu of this genre. Man meets woman; they fall in love; they arrange to meet (I think at the top of the Empire State Building) at a time in the future to be sure their love is "real"; she has an accident on the way and is **crippled**; he, frantic, doesn't know, thinks he's been stood up, rejected; she, now feeling unworthy of his love, does not let him know of the tragedy; oh, dear, so it goes on. He finds her, pays for the "cure"; they live happily ever after. What I now remember of this nonsensical affair is that she was pretty well heeled as well - how come she did

not pay for her own cure, years back. No film!

"MARNIE" a Hitchcock film, had a storyline featuring a disabled woman so damaged by the fact that she becomes a crook, but in this scenario our hero cures her mind with his love, ho hum, but as I recall that was not the happy outcome of the original book, by Winston Graham.

Good man ?

"JOHNNIE BELINDA" scraped the barrel - a woman rendered blind and speechless by a rapist; restored to "health" and happiness by a good man - but in it's day it was a highly rated film. No questions were raised in those

days about the degradation of rape - it was another paving stone to true love, and it may not be too fanciful to think that the restoration of sight and voice symbolised the restoration of virginal purity.

Are you receiving me sisters? Am I alone in suspecting that all this tacky stuff was feeding the myth of the almighty male - as provider of all things, even unto able-bodiedness?

Sexual healing

This sort of romantic/ tragedian trash is no longer churned out, but nothing better has



Anne Rae

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The back copies of *Coalition* are now available to anyone who missed them first time around for a standard charge of £1.50 (plus 50p p&p). Contact Ian Stanton for a "Main Contents List" of each edition.

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replaced it - disabled women no longer exist as characters, but as catalysts in the lives of others. Consider if you will the recent "GOODBYE, CRUEL WORLD" on BBC2. This was not about the woman, played by Sue Johnston, who acquired a degenerative impairment, but about the affect of it on the lives of people around her. Thrown in haphazardly were issues around charity fund raising, lack of personal support systems and the husband's need for sexual healing. Mostly it was a harrowing and voyeuristic study of physical decline. It could and should have been about the now farcical non-implementation of care in the community provision, and how the charity ethic robs disabled people of dignity in the perception of mainstream society, without providing user identified support "as of right", or even democratically across the spectrum of need.

The trouble is of course that even in mainstream drama, women who do not fill the required bill of attractiveness go through hoops to succeed. In Fay Weldon's "THE SHE-DEVIL" our heroine, an ungainly woman, went through agony, and years of cosmetic surgery, to revenge herself on the "lovely" woman who stole her husband - she become "lovely" enough to win him back, and destroy her rival. Even "MY LEFT FOOT" - a goodish film of Christie Brown's life, cast the incredibly handsome Daniel Day Lewis as Brown, and watered the character down to a bit of an artistic rogue instead of the womanising, alcoholic, excellent artist he was.

women I know lead lives full of the ingredients which make up the stories of women in mainstream drama, and then some. The implication of our non-existence by our non-representation in drama is a lie, and women, disabled women must take to their tape recorders, word processors, typewriters or pens proclaiming and chronicling our exhilarating, terrifying, wonderful existence.

It's a lie

Truth, and the reality of disability are miles apart in fiction. Most of the disabled



...and the leadership?

Encouraging Youth

I'm Tony Charalambides, fifteen years old, and a wheelchair user for nearly two years. During this time I have noticed that older disabled people tend to ignore both the needs and interests of younger disabled people. I want to look at why this is.

Ignoring the issues

First of all, what are the interests of young disabled people? Common interests among the youth of today include; playing and watching sport, going to discos, parties, cinemas and concerts, listening to music or playing on the computer.

Having these interests is all very well but without accessible facilities we are denied the opportunity to participate and integrate with able bodied people.

This problem needs to be solved and it is mainly older people who can do this, but unfortunately many tend to ignore the issues which face themselves as well as younger people. Which leads me to ask, why?

Wallowing in self pity

One reason could be that they are wallowing in their own self pity and have a miserable outlook on life. They may think that they are not as good as able bodied people. This is not only untrue but unfortunately it rubs off on the younger disabled generations, acting as a deterrent to them going to discos, concerts etc. and enjoy themselves. This is completely the wrong attitude to take and older people should be more positive; encouraging instead of discouraging younger disabled people.

Another problem is that older disabled people do not mix with younger people. This could be because they are intimidated by us. They think that we are all louts and cause trouble wherever

we go. This is quite unjustified. There is only a small minority who are like this and unfortunately the actions of these individuals reflect on the whole generation.

Obviously when I say these things I am not talking about every single older person because there are many of them who do make the effort to improve facilities, to socialise, and who show the young that life can carry on normally whether they are disabled or able-bodied.

A two-way effort

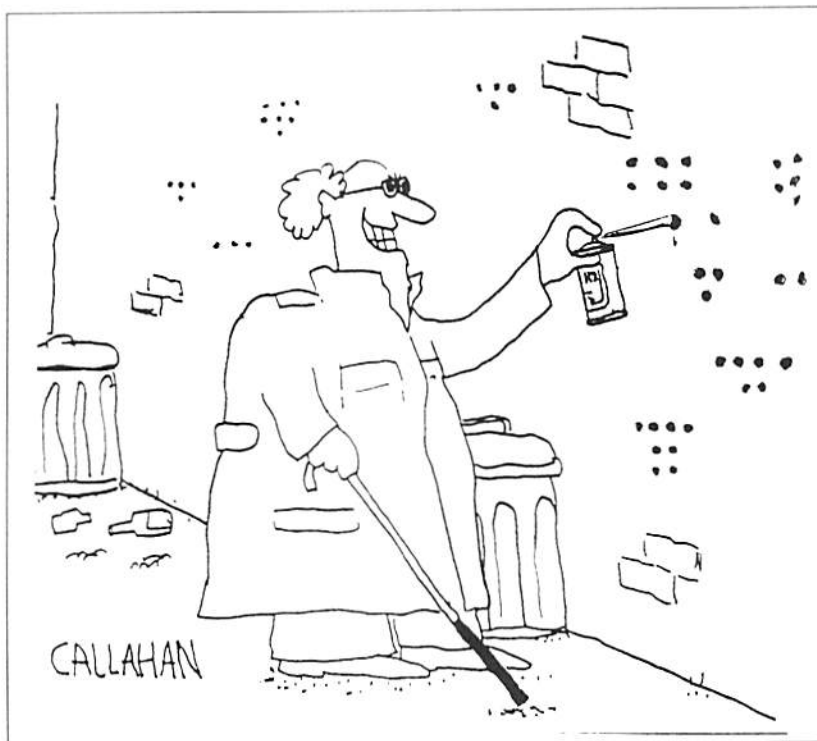
Young people are also partially at fault for not making the effort to change things themselves.

So what can be done to improve the general situation and outlook?

First of all, older disabled people should go to local youth groups to try to arrange facilities enabling disabled people to integrate. They should also try to break down social barriers between old and young people so that there is one group, not two separate groups. Obviously this would have to be a two-way effort for both young and old people.

Older people should also encourage youth to help themselves, to take risks and hopefully broaden the horizons and expectations of many young people.

Finally, leaflets and magazines like *Disability Writes* should be more readily available; and include examples of good facilities, with details of how to make inaccessible places more accessible.



Dear Editor

I'm sitting here in my Conservative in Tunbridge Wells sipping gin and musing on the fate of you dishabed. As I look across at the sunset and shift uneasily on my thick piles I wonder at what you wheelchairs are up to.

I'm a firm believer we all have something to thank the Lord for, even you poor people out on a limb. "Stand up, clap hands and spank the Lord" I sing at Church on Shundaze and I know in my heart you can do the shame, and should, for such latter day shaints as Jimmy Shovel and Terry Woggle. Think of all the Fixing and Telephoneying they do for you. You should be grateful but inshtead we get grating griping. What a load of old Bolsheviks! Communism is dead. Wake up to reality. Charity begins at home and disableds belong there too!

You all see red, so much sho you hijack buses in London. Red rags to bullshit! I can pile on the agony too you know. You should be in my rectal position. Don't talk to me about moral rectitude and fartytude, I have agonised luvvly happy parties with balloons for you Handicapped.

And do I get handy - clapped, thanked or spanked? Do I hell. Do I get an M.B.E.? Do I get on Telethon, do I get to a Buckingham Palace Pardon Garty? No!

So, I'm sinking my shecond bottle of gin as the sun sinks in the West, moved to tears by ingratitude, piles and Emmerdale Farm, and at a loss to see any hope for the future now even you Handicapped have gone left radical.

Hhrrrmph. Zzzzzzzzzzzzz. Snore. Hup! What, what! What's going on? Revolution? Danger to civilised values? Now look here, I'm as intolerant as the next man, and I want all this nonsense to stop d'ya hear, to SHTOP NOW. Why can't the world stay as it wash. We caring Conservatories in Tonbridge Wells used to wheel you wheelchairs out for walks, give you pea tarties and raise lots of money for charity. Now you shpit in our faeces. Sick transit van Gloria Monday Club.

Well I tell you you won't win. How could we possibly have a wheelchair newsreader, some of you can't even pronounsh you wordsh properly? How could we have a dishevelled Prime Minister, the House of Commons isn't accessible. Imagine a Royal Disabled! Imagine a wheelchair Throne at the State Opening of Parliament. Preposterous!

I lament the passing of the sun below the horizen this evening with copious libations of gin, I lament the passing of an age of sanity towels. I lament, like Jeremiah over the Destruction of Jerusalem, the Destruction of Old England. O woe woe woe the blind shall not walk, not the lame see. Oh misery, ruin and pain in the bum.....zzzzzzzz, snore. Uh! what! another glass, don't mind if I do, gin gin.

Brigadier "Huff" Bagshaw-Hogwash.

(We hope to make the letters page a regular feature of the magazine, so please drop us a line.)

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Charitable facts

There are tens of thousands of charities and campaigning organisations in Britain. For your information we bring you details of the reported income of some of the hundreds associated with disability.

To put this information into some form of context it is worth knowing that the Cats Protection League's income is £2,560,077 whilst the total income of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP) for 1991 was £69,700.

Arthritis Care £3,093,231

Charity Projects/Comic Relief £21,000,000

Deaf Broadcasting Council £1,000

Development Trust for the Frail or Physically Disabled Elderly £1,644,232

Gemma £502

Greater London Fund for the Blind £1,073,507

Guide Dogs for the Blind Association £16,700,000

Hearing Dogs for the Deaf £622,874

Multiple Sclerosis Society £14,000,000

National Association for Limbless Disabled £69,981

National Federation of the Blind £80,728

Not-Forgotten Association £450,000

Outset £1,758,179

Riding for the Disabled Association £379,409

Royal Association in Aid of Deaf People £800,000

Royal National Institute for the Blind £36,000,000

Royal National Institute for the Deaf £11,104,809

Sense - The National Deaf-Blind & Rubella Association £5,318,019

Spastics Society £58,000,000

Winged Fellowship Trust £958,000

If you know of the income of some of our other leading charities (for example, RADAR or the Muscular Dystrophy Group) let us know.

Information source: *New Statesman & Society, Good Giving Guide 1992.*

Do you want to publicise a meeting, demonstration, event, or make contact with other disabled people? Then drop a line to *Bulletin Board*:

Block Telethon Demonstration

Saturday 18th July 1992. 3.00pm - 8.00pm

London Weekend Television Centre, Upper Ground, London SE1 (East side of Waterloo Bridge).

Assemble by low grey wall on left side of LWT Centre.

Access: wheelchair accessible toilets in National Theatre. Paved area outside LWT is ramped.

Parking: single yellow lines and meters.

Public Transport: Nearest BR - Waterloo. Nearest Tube - Embankment and Charing Cross. Buses 1, 68, 76, 171, 171a, 188, 501, 502, 507, P11.

Further info from: Barbara 081-889-1361, Linda 071-272-6300, or Lesley 081-965-9704.

Tomorrow I'm Going To Rewrite The English Language

I am collecting work for an anthology of writing by disabled women to be published by "*The Women's Press*". This will include poetry, prose, autobiographical writing, short stories and essays (maximum 3000 words). It will be writing which offers resistance against the silence often imposed upon disabled people - writing which explores and experiments with language to describe our experiences and challenge complacency and oppression.

If you are a disabled woman, I would love to hear from you.

There are no fixed subjects, but some starting points might be:

- encounters with strangers
- growing and changing - learning to be proud
- relationships with friends and lovers
- pain - physical and emotional
- dealing with the world
- loss and grief
- stories from your childhood
- becoming a woman, becoming a mother, growing older
- from the personal to the political

All contributions will be acknowledged and there will be a small payment for work accepted for publication. Enclose SAE if you would like your materials returned.

Please reply to: Lois Keith, Editor, 82 Aberdeen Park, London, N5 2BE.

BCODP seminar -

"Independent Living and Personal Assistance". Friday to Sunday 7th, 8th & 9th August at Hereward College of Further Education in Coventry.

For this seminar to be truly representative of the disabled population BCODP would welcome applications from young disabled adults looking to achieve independent living, elderly disabled people and disabled women, lesbians and gay men.

Contact: Colin Barnes, Seminar Co-ordinator, Department of Social Policy and Sociology, University of Leeds LS2 9JT. Tel 0532 334414 (day), or 0532 301097 (evening).

Dolphin Circumnavigation Project will be competing in the *Whitbread Round the World Race* in a yacht crewed entirely by disabled people. Contact: MV Sports Ltd, 5 Wood Lane, London W12 7RQ (Tel: 081-743 2620).

Independence Matters is a new disabled people's organisation formed to campaign on all matters which prevent disabled people living an independent life within the community. Further details from Frank J Strong, Co-ordinator, 8 Hill Brow, Crayford, Kent DA1 3NX (Tel 0322-272127).

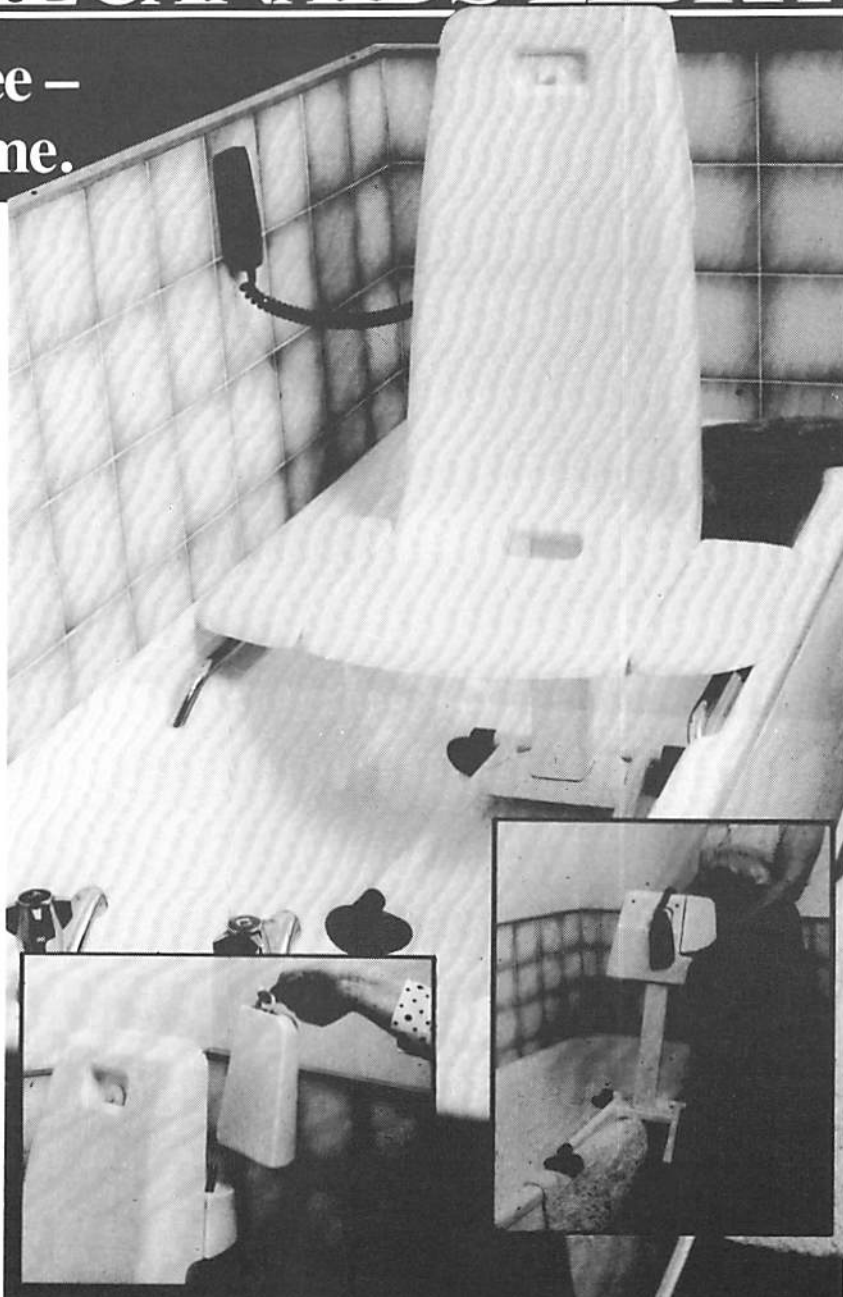
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Disability Writes accepts no responsibility for the goods and services advertised through this section. All advertising is received in good faith.

BOOKS & MAGAZINES

Disability Rights Handbook (17th Edition) is now available priced £6.95 (including p&p) from Disability Alliance ERA, 88-94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA (Tel: 071-247 8776).

Rainbows In The Ice - Poetry by disabled writers.

"This unique and memorable collection of new poetry reveals the full spectrum of human emotion."

Available, priced £4.85 (including p&p), from Commonword, Cheetwood House, 21 Newton Street, Manchester M1 1FZ.

Music News is a newsletter published by the National Music and Disability Information Service. Featuring comprehensive information on national news and courses, as well as a diary of events. Available on subscription from *Music News*, NMDIS, Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EJ (Tel: 0803 866701).

PENPALS

International friendships by correspondence available through *Rencontre France/Amerique*. This bilingual club (French/English) was founded, in 1986, in a spirit of cordiality and international good feeling. Members receive a list of all other members and a bulletin published three times a year to which each member is invited to contribute tips, experiences, other ideas or seek information

etc. Articles welcomed in either language.

For further details send 3 International Reply Coupons (available from the Post Office) to: Mrs D Villard, Rencontre France/Amerique, 350 Nature Trail Lane, Murrysville, PA 15668, USA.

The Penpal List is an international penfriend service providing low-cost lists with free advertisements for individuals. All adverts are accepted in good faith, and no responsibility is accepted for any contact made via any list.

Lists available:

(Prices include your own advertisement - 30 words plus name and address)

The Penpal List - Bi-monthly list of men and women. Six pages (A4) price £1.25 plus SAE (within UK) or 3 IRC's (elsewhere).

The Men's List - Quarterly list of and for men only. At least 100 names. £2.50 plus SAE or 6 IRC's.

The Women's List - Quarterly list of and for women only. Price as per Men's List.

Music Fans - Quarterly list for people who love music: fans, collectors and musicians. At least 100 names. Price as per Men's List.

Send cheques or Postal Orders, payable to the Penpal List, to The Penpal List c/o 1 Burnwood Drive, Wollaton, NG8 2DJ.

Don't forget to send details of your name, address (including post code), hobbies & interests and message/requirements.

International personals/networking newsletter by & for disabled/non-disabled people. For free information send SAE to *PeopleNet*, PO Box 897, Levittown, NY 11756.

The Manchester Gay Men's Disabled Group offer a national pen pal service for disabled gay men. Further details can be obtained by contacting the group at PO Box 153, Manchester, M60 1LP.

TAPE SERVICES

Capital Gay magazine is now freely available on tape to blind and visually impaired readers. Details available from *Capital Gay On Tape* (CGOT), c/o 66 Marchmont Street, London WC1.

HOLIDAYS

Pimlico Farm Country Holidays
Pimlico Farm is a 370 acre beef/sheep/arable/farm on the borders of Oxfordshire and is an excellent centre for visiting Oxford, Cotswolds, Stratford-upon-Avon. On-farm fishing is freely available to holiday guests, who also have complete access to the farm and lawned gardens leading to the lakes. Accommodation available includes April Cottage, a single storey barn which features wide doorways, no steps, floor level shower, hand rails etc and will sleep 4/5 people. Further details and brochure from: Mr & Mrs J Harper, Pimlico Farm, Tusmore, Bicester, OX6 9SL.

Orlando Florida

Spacious wheelchair accessible luxury bungalow, 3 double bedrooms (sleeps 6), 2 bathrooms, cable TV, 24 hour security alarm system, conservatory, 20 mins Disney, 10 mins airport, free golf/tennis/swimming, landscaped gardens, overlooks large golf course and nearby lake.

Further details from Sue Fisher, 5 Park Lane, Salford, M7 0LB (Tel 061-792-3029).

Youth Hostels Association - Accessible facilities in South Wales

Broad Haven Youth Hostel

The Hostel is ideally situated as a base from which to explore the beauty of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

Details from Jim and Lynn Garner (Wardens), The Youth Hostel, Broad Haven, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, Dyfed SA62 3JH (Tel 0437-781688).

Llwynypia Youth Hostel

Situated on the side of the Rhondda Fawr in 75 acres of natural woodland, with a wide variety of plants and wildlife.

Details from Richard Woodhouse (Warden), The Youth Hostel, Glynconel House, Llwynypia, Rhondda, Mid Glamorgan CF40 2JF (Tel 0443-430859).

Manorbier Youth Hostel

Located within the National Park boundary, the Hostel is ideally situated to reach a great variety of places of interest along the spectacular South Pembrokeshire coast line.

Details from Eric Audige Soutter (Warden), The Youth Hostel, Skrinkle Haven Centre, Manorbier, Tenby, Dyfed, SA70 7TT (Tel 0834-871803).

GENERAL

The Power Kit, add-on power kit for wheelchair. The Kit is a bolt-on adaptive unit that motorizes any standard manual wheelchair. The unique location of the mounting points on the Kit have been selected to eliminate any stress on the construction of the chair which fully maintains its ability to fold.

Further details from DWA Marketing, Debden Farm, Barford, Warwickshire CV35 8DA (Tel 0926-624376).

Gemma - Aims to lessen the isolation of disabled lesbians through information and friendship network. Quarterly newsletter, meetings and socials. The group welcomes disabled and able-bodied lesbians and bisexual women. Further details from BM Box 5700, London WC1N 3XX.

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THE NATIONAL TRUST WELCOMES DISABLED VISITORS

1992 is National Trust Landscape Year. Many of the Trust's landscape parks and gardens have excellent access for wheelchair users, and at some, accessibility is further improved by the provision of volunteer-driven buggies, battery powered self-drive cars, or three-wheeler scooters. These include landscape parks such as Sheringham in Norfolk, and gardens like Barrington Court in Somerset.

There is no charge for the use of these vehicles, which give independence and enjoyment to many people who can then tour a Trust property beside their companions!

There is a list of properties offering these vehicles and further details are given in a free annual 48 page booklet of information for visitors with disabilities, sponsored by Fisons plc. Please send a stamped self-addressed adhesive label (minimum postage) to:

Valerie Wenham,
Dept. DW, The National Trust,
36 Queen Anne's Gate,
London SW1H 9AS

RIGHTS NOT CHARITY

Do you know that the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP) is the representative body of organisations of disabled people in the UK and that it has United Nations recognition?

Do you know that BCODP has researched into discrimination against disabled people in Britain and is spearheading the campaign for anti-discrimination legislation?

Are you aware that we have published our findings on disabling imagery and the media, that we are running two independent living seminars in 1992, that further conferences on the Social Model and Terminology are also planned, that we have established a Research Unit and that BCODP has over 80 member organisations working to ensure disabled Peoples's control over their lives ?

If your answer to any of these questions is no then it's time you became a supporter of BCODP and subscribed to RIGHTS not CHARITY. Issue 1 (Aug 92) includes an interview with Nicholas Scott MP. Find out what the Minister thinks about the movement, independent living and the prospects for anti-discrimination legislation.

If you want to know what the BCODP is thinking, doing, planning etc then subscribe to the official journal of the movement. RIGHTS not CHARITY.

I wish to become a supporter of BCODP and receive RIGHTS not CHARITY. I understand that I will receive at least four copies during my years subscription.

I enclose my cheque/PO for £6.00 payable to BCODP

I enclose a further donation of £..... to help you in your fight for rights for disabled people.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

I understand that information given on this form will be kept on a computer data-base and that BCODP may mail me other information, including that from other organisations from time to time. BCODP guarantees that information given on this form will not be passed over to any external agency. I have no objection to BCODP maintaining my record on a computer data-base.

Signed..... Date.....

Return to: BCODP, De Bradelel House, Chapel Street, Belper,
Derbyshire, DE55 1AR