

From: News from Inclusion Daily Express [News@InclusionDaily.com]
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INCLUSION DAILY EXPRESS

Your quick, once-a-day review of disability rights and the movement toward full community inclusion and self-determination.

<http://www.InclusionDaily.com>

Today is Friday, November 3, 2000.

QUOTES OF THE DAY:

"We have always been supportive of athletes with disabilities and continue to be."

—Allan Steinfeld, president of the New York Road Runners Club (NYRRC), organizers of the New York City Marathon (Fifth story)

"They treated us like children."

—Wheelchair marathoner Boris Esterkis about how NYRRC organizers dealt with wheelchair athletes until they were sued for discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act last year (Sixth story)

EMPLOYMENT:

*****REPORT FINDS JOBLESS RATE ROSE DURING THE "ADA DECADE"*****

UNITED STATES—In a report released this week, Cornell University researchers say the jobless rate for people with disabilities rose one-tenth of a percent in the period from 1992 to 1999, in spite of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act and record low jobless rates for workers in general.

The study found that unemployment rates for people with disabilities followed national levels until 1992, the year much of the ADA went into effect. In 1999, 10.8 percent of Americans of working age reported that a disability was partially or completely limiting their ability to work, down from 11.3 percent in the mid-1990s and up slightly from 1992's level of 10.7 percent.

During the same period, the country's overall unemployment rate dropped from 7.5 percent in 1992 to 4.2 percent last year.

The researchers do not yet have an explanation for the strange trend.

"The whole point of the ADA is to say that everybody, given appropriate accommodations, can work," said Richard V. Burkhauser, a coauthor of the study and a professor of policy analysis and management at Cornell, in Ithaca, NY. "So why is there a rise in the number of people who cannot work?"

There is wide debate about the causes of the increase, and another debate about the accuracy of the study, according to this article from today's Philadelphia Inquirer Business section:

<http://web.philly.com/content/inquirer/2000/11/03/business/DISABLE03.htm>

[Editor's Note: The Philadelphia Inquirer's web page has a link to a map indicating the states with the highest and lowest jobless rates. The map is not accessible for certain readers. If you are interested in having the data which is represented on the map, please email me and I will send you a text analysis of the data. — Dave Reynolds]

EMPLOYMENT:

*****"THEY ARE ALL STILL WITH US"*****

REDMOND, OREGON—In 1983, Medtronic Physio-Control, a manufacturer of medical equipment, hired 10 people with disabilities as part of an experimental program. Seventeen years later, most of the staff have come and gone, including the president of the company.

All of those original ten hirees are still there.

"It's amazing," said Ladrene Coyne who runs the disability-hiring program at Physio-Control. "We started as a test program and they are all still with us."

But, says the writer of this Seattle Times article, the fact that these 10 have jobs is not the norm when it comes to workers with disabilities. The jobless rate for people with disabilities remains quite high while the rate for other workers has been on a downward trend for years.

A feature from the Seattle Times looks at other success stories, and how most members of this huge untapped work force could work if given the opportunity and simple workplace accommodations.

Because of the length of the Seattle Times web address, I have placed the link to the story on the Inclusion Daily Express website at this address:

http://www.inclusiondaily.com/news/1_103untapped.htm

CRIME:

*****MORE ARRESTED IN GIRL'S RAPE*****

MARIETTA, GEORGIA—As of yesterday afternoon, Cobb County Police had arrested 11 men and said they may have as many as 12 more suspects for the gang rape of a 13-year-old girl three weeks ago. The names of five of those suspects have not been released, police said, because they are minors. Most are being charged with statutory rape and child molestation.

Police believe the girl, described as having a mental disability, was lured into an apartment by four men on the afternoon of October 13. They claim the men then took her to an apartment where they raped and sexually molested her. Police say the men then brought the girl to an abandoned apartment in the same complex where up to 21 other males, ranging in age from 12 to 27, continued the assault.

The girl returned home about 4:00 am on October 14. She was taken to the local hospital where she was treated and released.

"Physically, she's going to be all right," Brody Staud of the Cobb County Police told a reporter.

Police have confiscated a video-tape in which the alleged perpetrators documented the assaults, according to this story from APBNews:

http://www.apbnews.com/newscenter/breakingnews/2000/11/02/gangrapel_102_01.html

CRIME:*****PARENTS TO SUE STATE OVER DAUGHTER'S DEATH*****

TAMPA, FLORIDA—During a press conference at their attorney's office on Wednesday, Patricia and Tom Murtha announced their intentions to sue Florida's Division of Children and Families over the death of their 12-year-old daughter Michele. The girl, who had a developmental disability, was murdered last week at Nancy Marlins' foster home where she had been staying while she waited for placement in a group home.

Marlins' grandson, Dexter Levingston, is accused of murdering his grandmother, three other family members and Michele. Levingston, who had listed his grandmother's address on various records and who relatives say was living there, had misdemeanor convictions for battery and DUI.

The Murthas said they plan to sue the state for negligence because the division failed to keep their daughter safe in the home. "We intend to make sure this can never, ever happen to another child," Pat Murtha said.

SELF-DETERMINATION/INCLUSION:*****RUNNERS SAY MARATHON ORGANIZERS DISRESPECTED THEM*****

NEW YORK, NEW YORK—About 300 members of the Achilles Track Club, whose members include wheelchair racers, amputees and people with cerebral palsy, brain injuries, blindness and other disabilities, plan to race in the New York City Marathon this Sunday.

But their involvement has been met with resistance and disrespect from marathon organizers, say Achilles officials.

Officials with the New York Road Runners Club (NYRR), the body which organizes the marathon deny that there has ever been any discrimination, even though Achilles members sued in July of 1999 in order to gain equal access and recognition (See story below).

Achilles members say one reason they have been treated unfairly may have to do with their plans to begin an alternative to the New York City Marathon — a more inclusive event that may create some competition for the NYRR.

Today's New York Post included this item:
<http://www.nypost.com/11032000/news/14762.htm>

SELF-DETERMINATION/ACCESS:*****AFTER 23 YEARS, WHEELCHAIR RACERS WIN INCLUSION*****

NEW YORK, NEW YORK—In 1977, Bob Hall had to fight organizers of the New York City Marathon just to be able to participate in the road race. Hall, a wheelchair user and designer, was the only "wheeler" that year.

Since then, wheelchair athletes have been trying to gain equal access and recognition to other marathoners. After years of scorn and resistance, a group of wheeled racers filed a federal discrimination suit under the Americans with Disabilities Act last year charging organizers with "bigotry and elitism which has caused humiliation and harm". Finally, the New York City Road Runners Club relented and settled out of court.

This Sunday, for the first time in NYC Marathon history, the event will include an official

competitive wheelchair division, complete with prize money. New York's marathon is the last major event of its kind in the U.S. to do so.

SportsJones Magazine's Laura Kaminker has written a history of how these athletes fought for inclusion in the marathon. The four-part series begins with the following webpage in the November 2 Edition of SportsJones. Look for the link to the next page at the bottom of each article:

<http://www.sportsjones.com/nycmarathon.htm>

SportsJones Magazine also included Kaminker's six-part story on the 2000 Sydney Paralympics and the media's general lack of coverage of the Games:

"THE PARALYMPICS PARADOX"

<http://www.sportsjones.com/paralympics.htm>

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