

# the GOARC GAZETTE

FEBRUARY 1976

Love has no  
other desire but  
to fulfill itself.

For love is  
sufficient unto  
love.

*The Prophet*



*Matthe*

A PARENT'S LOVE

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GOARC Executive Committee: John Clark, President; Paul Tamisiea, 1st Vice-President; George Armstrong, 2nd Vice-President; Jan Novicki, Recording Secretary; Shirley Dean, Coresponding Secretary; Pat Jung, Treasurer.

GOARC Staff: Tom Miller, Executive Director; Amy Humphries, Administrative Assistant; Lynne MacDonald, Office Manager; Patty Smith, Coordinator, Pilot Parent Program; Carl Sullivan, Client Ombudsperson; Billie Cook, Coordinator, Poverty and Mental Retardation Program.

Editor: Pamela Kooiker

GOARC is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide a strong volunteer support organization for all mentally retarded citizens and their families by advocating for the rights, needs, and full development of these citizens of Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Annual membership: \$9.50, Life membership: \$100.00.



A United Way Agency

## 1976 - INDEPENDENCE FOR ALL

1976 has a historical ring to it as we celebrate our nation's bicentennial. Throughout the country, various events will be held as a tribute to those people who fought hard for America's independence. Historical monuments throughout the United States will be visited by numerous Americans who will again become reinvigorated with the "Spirit of 76".

In our own area there's also been a "Declaration of Independence" which has gone on for the last several years among mentally retarded people. Prior to several years ago many individuals were totally dependent upon an institution which provided for their every need. Because parents felt that a new life style should be provided to their children, a plan was drawn up in collaboration with professionals that would allow their mentally retarded children much more independence than they had ever known before.

Mentally retarded citizens fight for independence has not been an easy one. Their struggle has been fraught with anxiety, worry, and frustration. Learning to live in the community is not an easy thing to do, especially when they have not had adequate preparation. And yet despite the problems and difficulties encountered, there are today, in Omaha, many mentally retarded adults who are living independently, who are working on a job in the community, who are supporting themselves in their own living environment, who are facing up to and coping with the challenges that confront them.

I really become excited every time I see examples of a mentally retarded person's struggle for independence. Recently, I talked to a mentally retarded man, who had been institutionalized for several years. He told me about a house that he was going to purchase. That would have been impossible had he always been dependent upon an institutional setting. On January 10th, I attended the wedding of a man that I had known for several years who had also been previously institutionalized. He and his wife are joining other mentally retarded adults who have been married over the past several years, thanks to the opportunity they had to socialize with one another in the community. Several mentally retarded people I know are now driving around in their own automobiles, or saving up enough money to purchase one. Other mentally retarded adults are saving their money on a regular basis and now have a good sized savings account. Although these are commonplace occurrences for most Americans who have always had their own independence, these activities have not been so typical for mentally retarded adults who have been institutionalized.

Independence has two sides to it. Besides the joys and benefits that we receive from living in a free country, there are also the frustrations and failures in making wrong decisions. One mentally retarded couple that I know who have been married for several years and who have a child are now thinking of getting separated. There have been mentally retarded adults who have been lost because they got on the wrong bus. Others have lost their jobs after short periods of time. Some have failed to make an adequate adjustment in a less dependent residential setting. Some mentally retarded adults and adolescents that I have worked with have been in serious trouble with the law. Some people, when given the chance to exercise their independence, have failed repeatedly.

However uncomfortable the effects of risk taking may be, however difficult it might be at times to live on one's own, to make one's own choices, I still feel that independence is what we have to strive for for all mentally retarded citizens. Some mentally retarded citizens, because of their severe handicaps will not be able to enjoy the spirit of independence as others who may be more capable. The potential to be free and to experience freedom depends on so many factors - education, exposure, opportunity, mental intelligence, physical limitations, etc. For mentally retarded people whom I know who are not capable of living on their own or who never may be working on the floor of industry, for these people, too, independence is important. For individuals who are more severely handicapped the constant stimulation of their limbs so they can use them may be one of the most independent things they will ever do. The capability of feeding themselves without help may be one of the best ways that they can express the spirit of '76.

I hope all of you who join in on the celebrations for America's independence this year will remember that whenever you help a mentally retarded child or friend become more independent, you too are participating in the bicentennial celebration.

Thomas Miller  
Executive Director

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## PARENT FEES

The Nebraska State Department of Public Institutions has recently published rules and regulations regarding client and parent payment for services, either in the institution or in community-based programs. The Department of Public Institutions is requiring the six regional programs to enforce the new regulations. A lot of concern regarding the regulations has come from the service providers, i.e. ENCOR and the ARC's.

GOARC together with NebARC is attempting to get the amount that parents and clients have to pay lowered so that the rate can be more reasonable. We do feel that the current schedule is especially inappropriate for those clients who receive partial services from an agency, for example counseling services only, or half-day developmental services. We do want to repeat here that if a client is not living in an ENCOR facility, unearned income (Social Security benefits or other Federal benefits that go directly to the client) is not assessed in figuring one's ability to pay.

If you feel you are, for any reason, unable to pay the full amount of the fee that you have been assessed, please contact the GOARC office at 551-9450 and we will assist you in writing a letter of appeal. You can also call your advisor for assistance.

## CAN YOU HELP?

Do you want to do something positive in this Bicentennial Year of 1976 to help GOARC help you and your families? Here are some ways that you can help. Come to the General Membership meetings and keep informed. Volunteer some of your time to serve on a committee or the Board or become an officer. If you are already on a committee or the board, don't wait for someone else to get things moving, be decisive and push for progress. Many committees have done well this past year but many have really stagnated. If you were a chairperson of this type of committee, would you have allowed this to happen?

Join in the effort to increase the membership roster and renew your own membership. Ed Skarnulis needs help on the Membership Committee. His telephone number is: 444-6561. Can't some of you spare a few hours to help. Don't be afraid that you aren't qualified or can't contribute because effort is 90% of the battle.

And remember...Hike-Bike is coming up soon. This activity will be critical for the financial success of GOARC this year. Are you going to be too busy with other activities to help?

John Clark  
President

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## PEOPLE WHO CARE

During these times when GOARC and ENCOR are both in the throws of yet another funding crisis, let's do a little reflecting. Is it really money that has brought about all the improvements that we know have concerning the rights and privileges now enjoyed by our sons, daughters, or friends whom we know to be retarded? It would be foolish to believe that money isn't necessary for running a viable program. But, how do successful programs develop in the first place? Did they just happen? Emphatically, no! It took people. It took people with vision, determination, and an old fashion willingness to work for something worthwhile.

If you believe in a cause strongly enough, you will eventually do something about it. This happened when our organization was an infant. Because of the labors of a few who believed in the rights of retarded citizens for an education, the developmental centers were born. Because of the labor of others, the doors of Beatrice are open and its inhabitants were returned home.

The whole thing boils down to this: as needs become necessary and we want something badly enough, we can get it. It takes work. It takes determination. It takes organization. The nucleus for all this lies within the organization called GOARC. When and if needed, the people of GOARC will be there.

Dr. Paul Tamisiea  
First Vice-President

## HERE'S YOUR CHANCE

### GOARC NEEDS BRIGHT, ACTIVE, ENERGETIC PEOPLE!

It's that time of year again when GOARC must begin looking for fresh faces to fill positions on the GOARC Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee, which consists of Thelma Carr, Bob Salach, Jane Upton, Joe Friend, Carla Dyer, Ray Loomis and Mr./Mrs. Joseph Schultz, was selected at the General Membership Meeting and the January meeting of the GOARC Board of Directors. They will be looking around the membership for people who would be interested in filling the slots for officers and board members. If you are interested in filling one of these positions (you won't have to begin until July) or if you know of someone who could be energetic enough to work on the board, please call the GOARC office at 551-9450 and let us know. We'll send your name or the name of your candidate to the Nominating Committee and they can talk to you further about the tasks of GOARC board members and officers. If you don't volunteer, we'll have to go out looking for you. Save us the time and give us a call!

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### AWARDS AND OUTSTANDING PEOPLE



Each year NebARC and GOARC recognize those individuals and groups in Nebraska that have made a significant contribution in the area of mental retardation during the past year. The categories for the annual awards are: Citizen of the Year, Employer of the Year, Special Education Teacher of the Year, and Organization of the Year. The winners in each category for NebARC awards will be announced, and awards presented at the NebARC State Convention on May 1, 1976 at South Sioux, Nebraska. GOARC Awards will be presented during the May General Membership Meeting. We would like you to help us by furnishing GOARC with nominations for these four categories. We must have our nominations into the NebARC office no later than March 15th for them to be considered. If you know of anyone that you feel would be eligible for such an award, please call the GOARC office at 551-9450 and we will get the information that is needed from you at that time. Thank you very much.

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### TOOTSIE ROLL WEEK



From March 22 to March 28, the Knights of Columbus along with GOARC will be sponsoring a Tootsie Roll Week. This particular fund-raising project has been very successful for ARC's in several states. Tootsie rolls are sold on street corners and door-to-door during that week. We will be giving you more details on it in a future GAZETTE article but we did want to mention to you now that it will be coming up. Norm Stava, who has been actively involved in chairing Honey Sunday, will also be chairing this project.

## "EVERY CHILD HAS HIS OWN SONG TO SING"

Every child owns the sunlight  
To see what he can see  
To find out where and who he is  
And all that he can be.

Help the child in his springtime  
To know all he can know,  
And be the one, the only one,  
Who makes his flowers grow.

Every child is a person  
With smiles and tears his own.  
A was, and is, and shall become,  
A song that must be sung.

(Refrain--after each verse)  
The sun shines bright in the  
morning,  
Flowers bloom in the spring,  
Every child has his own song  
to sing,  
Let him sing, let him sing.

## GOYARC CALENDAR: FILLING UP FEBRUARY

GOYARC is on the go again. Been lagging for the past few weeks, but there's plenty planned in the weeks ahead. Skating seemed to be high on everyone's list of things to do when we're together. We'll try that a couple different ways this month.

### February 1 (Sunday) GOYARC Supper/Skate

GOYARC gets the month rolling at Cheap Skate. Meet there (at 90th and Maple) at 3:00 and we'll skate till 6:00, or whenever we work up a good appetite. Georgie Bender (393-0358) has it planned so that we'll work our way over to El Fredo's for pizza. That's right next door.

Skating is only "semi" cheap: \$1.25 for admission and \$.50 for all eight wheels. Plan ahead, though, and join Georgie and all of us on the first. Mike and Rose White (551-6306) will be along as GOYARC's Advisors.

### February 8 (Sunday) AWARENESS

The young adult discussion group hasn't been meeting over these past few months. But it's back now to our regular group, place, and time. St. Timothy Church (93 and Dodge) welcomes us to use their lounge. Pastor Charles Harman and Tim Norris are pulling together a film to lead to some ideas they want to share. The familiar group will likely be there at 2:00 until 3:30. As always, anyone who comes is made to feel welcome. Call Tim (397-3315).

### February 18 (Wednesday) Ice Skating at Ak-Sar-Ben

Back on skates again. Only this time we'll be on the Ak-Sar-Ben ice. Heidi Davies (391-0669) has it planned so that we'll meet just before the session starts at 8:00 p.m. Since it's a school nite, we'll plan to leave at 9:30. Give Heidi a call to let her know you'll be there. Judy Peterson and her husband, Hans Christian Peterson, will be asked to bring their silver skates and be the nite's Advisors.

### February 22 (Sunday) Spaghetti Supper

GOYARC will be back doing what it does best, eat. This time we'll get together to finish cooking and serve a spaghetti dinner at the basement of St. Timothy Church (93rd and Dodge). Plan to meet at 6:00 to put the finishing touches to the Italian flavor of the food and decorations. Elaine Larson (392-2518) and Vicki Kelly (397-1054) will have some ideas for a program that will last till about 8:30. Dave Fisher (291-7047) is GOYARC's advisor that nite.

### February 29 (Sunday) General Membership Meeting

Only once in 4 years is there a February 29. We'll meet to celebrate the Leap Year at First Federal Savings (on 84th just south of Dodge). This is a must, a nite you'll only find on this year's calendar. GOYARC's President, Rick Duffer, can field any questions you might have. Call Duff (334-9303) or his advisor that nite, Pat Henry (397-3315), and be sure to come.

Finally, look ahead to March. Block out the 19th and 20th (Friday and Saturday) for the GOYARC Retreat. Details will be coming with next month's GAZETTE. We want you there!



## SPECIAL FEDERAL INCOME TAX DEPENDENCY RULINGS

The material which follows came from Action Together, Information Exchange, an NARC publication. We thought during this time of year when everyone is looking for deductions and exemptions, that the following information might be helpful to you.

### Background Information

In the preparation of Federal personal income tax returns, parents and other responsible relatives of mentally retarded children should take into consideration a number of special rulings relating to dependency. The information set forth below should be useful with regard to the computation of medical deductions, transportation costs and home child care expenses.

1. Medical deductions for dependents who are residents in an institution for the mentally retarded person-- A new ruling on exemptions for dependency of mentally retarded persons in institutions is now in effect. It extends an earlier ruling which held that the cost of room and board for such a student may be considered a scholarship grant which will not be taken into account in determining whether the parents have provided more than one-half of his support. The extension no longer limits such care to state institutions, and includes retarded persons regardless of age.

In the case of a dependent child being placed in a specially selected home to aid his adjustment to life in the community, following the recommendation of a psychiatrist, the following rules would apply:

1. There was no family relationship between the taxpayer and the persons in whose home the retarded child was to stay.
2. The taxpayer paid a substantial amount to obtain the type of living accommodations for his child that the doctor prescribed as referenced above.

For purposes of this section of the regulations, an agency that is regularly engaged in providing the types of care or services outlined therein is considered an institution. To be "regularly engaged" in providing medical care means that persons who are providing such care and that they are providing the care in exchange for a determined consideration.

2. Deductible Medical Expenses and Related Transportation Costs--Taxpayers may deduct as medical expenses sums paid for the care and treatment of dependents in institutions or at home, limited to the amounts which exceed 3% of the taxpayer's total income as shown on his income tax return (line 18, Form 1040).

If the patient's transportation is for medical care then the cost of a parent's transportation to accompany a sick child or that of a nurse to attend the patient is deductible. Transportation costs are not likely to be allowed as a deduction unless incurred primarily for and are essential to the alleviation of a physical or mental defect or illness on the advice of a doctor.

Costs of taxi-cabs and other public transportation to and from special schools for the handicapped, hospitals and doctors' offices are deductible, but the Internal Revenue Service requires proof of the expenditure, such as receipts, cancelled checks, etc. The cost of the person accompanying the child to the special school, if the child cannot travel alone, is also deductible. (Taxi-cab fares to and from work were allowed as medical expense deductions to a physically disable individual where employment was recommended by a physician as part of a therapy program.)

Costs of transportation by private car are similarly deductible. The Internal Revenue Service has apporoved the use of a standard deduction of 7 cents per mile or actual expenses, which ever is larger, for transportation costs in connection with medical care. Parking fees and tolls attributable to medical transportation are separately deductible. Similar rules apply to years 1963 - 1969. Cost of parents transportation expenses to visit a mentally retarded child, where competent medical advice deems visits necessary part of treatment, is deductible; but meals and lodging are not.

The total cost of meals, lodging, and ordinary education, furnished a mentally retarded child attending a special school, is deductible as a medical expense only where the availability of medical care in such institution is a principle reason for the child's presence there. It is immaterial whether such medical advice is furnished in a public or private institution. Reference Revenue Ruling 55-261, CB 1955-1, 307. mod.

3. Home Child Care Expenses--The Revenue Act of 1971 provides for liberal changes in child care deductions for years beginning after 1971. For the years prior to January 1, 1972, other less liberal rules applied.

4. Medical Deductions for a Dependent Living at Home--

a. For a dependent earning \$750 or more " it is...well established that under the present law taxpayers may include in computing their medical expense deductions amounts paid on behalf of a dependent or a person who could be claimed as a dependent except for the fact that he or she had an income of \$750 or more."

b. Deductibility of the cost of attending a sheltered workshop as medical expense:

"A primary factor to be considered is whether the services rendered by the workshop constitute 'medical care' within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code. Generally, the service of teaching an individual to perform a job would not constitute medical care. However, the service of counselling a mentally retarded person toward the goal of enabling him to cope with the normal everyday problems of living in the community may alleviate his condition and qualify as medical care. This might be considered comparable to the blind child learning Braille alleviating the lack of sight, or the deaf child learning lip reading alleviating the lack of hearing."

Questions of interpretation should be discussed by the taxpayer with his accountant or attorney, or with the local Internal Revenue Office.

## PILOT PARENT PATCHWORK

Fran Porter and Patty Smith made a double presentation at Immanuel Hospital January 13th. Again, the hospital staff was most receptive to the information and assistance of Pilot Parents.

Two Pilot Parents, Fran Porter and Lila Schafer, along with Dr. Aaron Armfield were discussion leaders at the monthly MCRI film presentation.

The discussion of "Nicky and Danny" (about two Down's Syndrome boys) was a good subject for Lila and Fran as they have had lots of experience at home with their sons and with many other parents of Down's Syndrome children.

On Monday evening, January 5th, Shirley Dean, Fran Porter, Ron Morrow and Patty Smith presented the Pilot Parent Program to the Dodge County ARC in Fremont. One of the Fremont couples, Charles and Elsie Phifer, who have taken Pilot Parent training at GOARC, have made the arrangements for the group training in Fremont. Ten couples there had expressed a desire to take the training, so it began January 14th.

Patty Smith, with the assistance of Susan Rippke of the University Social Service Dept., recently gave the Pilot Parent Program presentation at University Hospital. The nurses in obstetrics and pediatrics were very enthusiastic about the hospital packets that Pilot Parents makes available for parents at the time of diagnosis.

Saturday, January 17th found Ron Morrow, Sherry Bauer, Dorothy Monroe, Shirley Dean, Fran Porter and Patty Smith presenting the first Pilot Parent workshop at the Holiday Inn in Grand Island. This was another unique opportunity to share the concept of "parents helping parents of handicapping children".

December 16th Dorothy Monroe held a lovely Christmas Coffee for Pilot Parent people. It was an enjoyable time of sharing in the middle of some hectic pre-Christmas days.

THANKS TO ALL  
FOR GIVING SO  
GENEROUSLY OF  
THEIR TIME AND  
TALENTS TO THE  
PILOT PARENT  
PROGRAMS.

## "THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT"

If you weren't at the General Membership Meeting in January, you missed a lot of things! To start off the evening, we had our regular business meeting at which time Honey Sunday awards were presented. The area coordinators who received the awards in recognition of their dedication and hard work were: Fran Porter, Joe Garro, Don Grimm, JaWanda Alls, and Murph Gartner. Special awards were also presented to Honey Sunday chairperson Norm Stava and assistant chairperson Bob Gehrman.

This was followed by some fantastic entertainment including a skit entitled "Have Gum Will Travel" featuring Jan Novicki as narrator, our illustrious executive director Tom Miller as Big Shot Pete (the fastest gumchewer in the West), Ed Skarnulis as Beautiful Bertha Humdinger (dance hall girl), Jack DeMay as High Hat Twerp (the sheriff), Chuck Schorr as the bartender, and Laura Hoffman as one of the saloon girls. It was really funny seeing these people in a Western "Mellerdrama" (complete with commercials featuring Arlene Lee as the lady selling horseradish with a kick!).

The skit wasn't the end of the show, though. Tom Porter came on stage next and dazzled us with some of his magic. (I still can't figure out how he got those ten cards from his left hand to his right pants pocket!) After this magical treat, we got another treat from John Pleiss in the form of a humorous reading entitled "Cohen's Wedding." (I can't even begin to tell you how much we all laughed!)

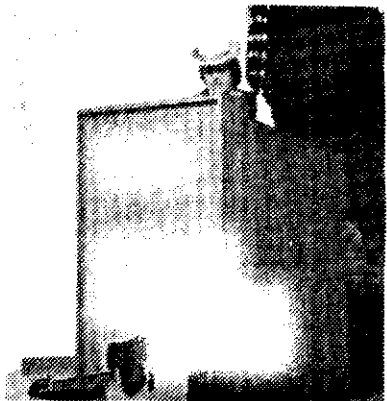
To more or less close out the evening we had some musical entertainment with Gene Loftis and his guitar. He sang a couple of popular songs plus a song he wrote himself called "Every Child Has His Own Song to Sing" (you saw the words on page 6)...just beautiful. We even had a sing-along time followed by a presentation by a barbershop quartet, "The Sweet Adelines."

The last thing on the agenda was the drawing for a dinner for two at the restaurant of their choice which was won by Mrs. Richeson. (As an added bonus, a five pound bag of ready-made popcorn that was left over from the night's snacks was also given away. Skarnulis' were the happy (?) winners! I bet their kids were ecstatic!)

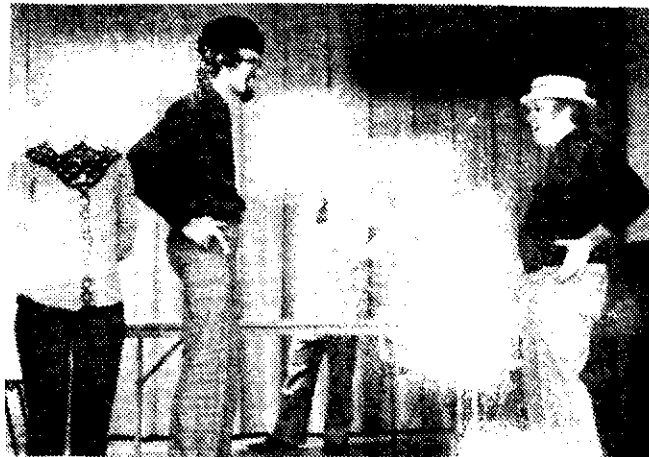
Anyway, that's what you missed!...A fun evening (see the pictures on the following two pages) packed with entertainment and information. Try to make the next meeting--you'll be glad you did!

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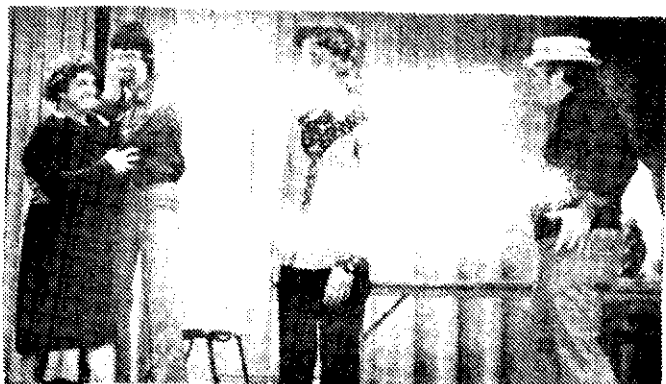




*Jan Novicki narrated the Board of Directors skit, "Have Gum Will Travel"*



*Big Shot Pete (Tom Miller) and High Hat Twerp (Jack DeMay) are ready for a shoot-out while Bartender Chuck Schorr and Dancing Girl Laura Hoffman watch and wait.*



*Beautiful Bertha Humdinger, played by Ed Skarnulis, is gettin' mighty friendly with Big Shot Pete.*



*Poor Beautiful Bertha Humdinger lost her cool (and her wig) and fainted on the stage floor.*



*Our fine actors could hardly keep a straight face during a slight pause after Big Shot stood up with Bertha in his lap!*



*Commercial time -- Arlene Lee promotes horseradish with a real kick!*



*Tom Porter amazed the audience with a fascinating magic show.*



*Music and song were enjoyed; provided by ENCOR employee, Gene Loftis.*



*Long-time Board and GOARC member John Pleiss, gave a reading entitled "Cohen's Wedding"*



*"The Sweet Adelines" provided Barbershop music to close out the entertainment for the evening.*



*Don Grimm (left) and Joe Garro (Right) accepted their awards given in appreciation of their hard work and long hours spent on the 1975 Honey Sunday campaign.*

## RECREATION ALTERNATIVES

GOARC has had a couple meetings with Omaha's City Park and Recreation Department in order to set up a few recreation programs in a couple of city facilities. Omaha City Parks and Recreation has indicated a real willingness to integrate mentally retarded individuals into their programs. Currently, the task is to identify one or two programs for children and one or two programs for adults. Then volunteers will be sought (if you are interested, please call the GOARC office!) so that mentally retarded people can participate in the regularly scheduled City Parks programs. If your child does not need a lot of supervision, however, you may be interested in calling one of the City Parks locations yourself to see what they offer for their spring programs which begin in March. They really have a wide variety of programs.

Following is a list of the City Recreation facilities, phone numbers, and supervisors. According to Clarence Schafer, Director of City Parks and Recreation, mentally retarded citizens would be more than welcome to attend any of the programs which are offered by the Recreation Department.

Benson Community Center, 6008 Maple St.  
Susan Paskevic, Supervisor, 551-2368

Florence Center, 8702 No. 30th  
Ken Pelan, Supervisor, 451-0721

Bryant Center, 2417 Grant St.  
James Daniels, Supervisor, 345-3155

Lucas Hall Senior Center  
923 No. 38th Neil Becker  
397-3150, Ext. 324

Christie Heights Center, 3623 "P" St.  
John Coschka, Supervisor, 731-2073

Montclair Center, 2304 S. 135 Ave.  
Linn Templeton, Supervisor  
333-4484

Adams Park Center, 3230 John A. Creighton Blvd.  
(Scheduled opening March 1, 1976)

A.V. Sorensen Center (Dundee), 4808 Cass St.  
(Scheduled opening April 1, 1976)

Kellom Community Center  
1311 N. 30 St., 342-1116

Florence Center, 8821 No. 30th St.  
(Scheduled opening April 1, 1976)

Martin Luther King Center  
3706 Maple St., 451-9089

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## GOOD-BYE AND THANK-YOU

At the end of January, Linda Lund, who has been a secretary with GOARC since 1971, left to work with Holland Dreves, an advertising firm. A luncheon was held at "The Depot" in her honor on January 23rd.

We, the staff at GOARC, would like to personally thank her for all that she has done over the past year. Because of all the work that she did and all the knowledge that she had of GOARC's "inner workings," it will be very difficult to replace her. We wish Linda the best in her new position and again want to thank her for all she has done for us!

## FLASH!...FLASH!...PRESIDENT FORD SIGNS S-6 INTO LAW

The White House announced on Tuesday, December 2, that President Ford signed into law S. 6, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, on November 29, 1975, prior to leaving on his trip to China. His signature marks the end of a three-and-a-half year battle to greatly increase the federal funding mechanism to aid state and local education agencies in financing education for the handicapped programs. This major victory on behalf of handicapped children came about through a tremendous effort on the part of Congress and many national organizations concerned with the education of handicapped children.

The overwhelming votes by both Houses of Congress in passing the Conference Report on S. 6 clearly indicated to the President that the Congress could easily override an anticipated veto of this legislation. This certainly must have influenced Mr. Ford's decision. A message released by the White House, however, expresses the President's great concern over the expenditure levels contained in the bill and states his desire to seek some changes in the measure in the future.

A major victory has been won but an even larger battle looms ahead. The Congress must now appropriate the funds to carry out the full education services provisions for all handicapped children.

Please write a letter of thanks to Nebraska Senator Carl Curtis and Representative John Y. McCollister who voted in favor for S. 6. Senator Hruska was one of seven negative votes in the Senate and Representative Martin of Nebraska was also one of seven negative votes in the House of Representatives. Altogether, 87 Senators and 404 Representatives voted in favor of S. 6.

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## SENATORIAL DINNER

On Tuesday, January 13th, members of GOARC joined other ARC members throughout the state in sponsoring a dinner for Nebraska's State Senators. Over 30 state senators were present for the event. The dinner, which is annually sponsored by NebARC and other ARC's throughout the state, gives the ARC members an opportunity to talk informally to their state Senator about their own child or friend who is mentally retarded and about the legislative concerns for the upcoming 1976 convention. Meg Brink, the president of NebARC, gave a brief presentation to the senators and a film was also shown called "Try Another Way" which talked about vocational training for severely mentally retarded adults. Hopefully, this kind of involvement with the senators will carry through during this session when GOARC members will be asked to call upon their Senators to discuss legislation for mentally retarded persons.



## PILOT PARENTS' EVALUATION

Each year as part of the quarterly evaluation of the Pilot Parent grant, one professional who cooperates with the Pilot Parents and two active Pilot Parents are to submit an evaluation of the program. The following are the evaluations submitted for the October-December quarter:

Dear Patty,

I have just tucked our 8 1/2-year-old Down's Syndrome son in bed for the night. Do you know what I think of when I see him sleeping so soundly, safe and warm? I remember the first time I held him in my arms and thinking what is ahead for our first-born -- the child we waited and prayed for. Those days in the hospital were not easy for me as my husband was in Vietnam, many miles away. It wasn't easy for him either, as all he was told was "your child is retarded". Those words are so hard to hear for the first time. We would have given a month more army pay to have had other parents to talk to, but we didn't know any and we didn't know how to get in touch with any. So now you understand why being Pilot Parents means so much to us. We also need Pilot Parents. We have made some lifelong friends and met some really terrific people through GOARC and Pilot Parents. Whenever our son is sick or takes one step forward, we know we can talk or brag to another Pilot Parent. They always have an open heart and understand. I feel that we have helped many new parents either through listening or referring a service. Life would have been easier 8 years ago if Pilot Parents would have been around.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Volcheck

Dear Patty,

What Pilot Parents means to me. We get as much out of it as we put into it. There's always more to learn, each new experience leaves us a little wiser. Some people just need a shoulder to cry on, brag on or lean on. Others need much more. We try and help them get to the right people who can help.

I've had the very rewarding experience of working with a mother who was going to put her baby in an institution. After a few months this same mother said to me, "I'm so glad I didn't give her up, she's so cute, I'm so proud of her. She's going to be the smartest Down's in her part of the city, she's going to have every chance." With an outlook like that, they both will do very well.

Sincerely,

Lila Schafer

Dear Patty,

The Pilot Parents have, since their inception, provided an invaluable service to parents encountering distress due to their child's developmental

problems. They have responded quickly and sensitively to requests from Visiting Nurses to reach out to mothers, fathers, and siblings with concern and creative assistance. Individually and in their gatherings of mothers, parents, Pilot and Piloted Parents, and complete families they have done unending good in lessening the sense of isolation, and in welcoming these aching families into a warm, resourceful fellowship.

In this day of limited funding for nursing, especially in the areas of identification and referral, the Visiting Nurse Association is particularly appreciative of the selection and training of these people to assure their helpfulness in providing support without creating problems. And of the focus on the ability to recognize and refer families who are overwhelmed and in need of assistance in selecting and utilizing available resources.

The close cooperation between our groups deserves recognition as does the key role of the Pilot Parent coordinator. The common denominator is quick and sensitive responses based on mutual respect.

Sincerely,

Jane Sherratt, R.M., M.A.  
Clinical Specialist for  
Handicapped Children  
Visiting Nurses Association

\* \* \* \* \*

## PILOT PARENT TRAINING

Pilot Parents are going to begin a new training session on March 1, 1976. The training will last for six weeks, two hours each Monday evening.

Anyone interested in taking the training please contact Patty Smith at the GOARC office. Also, if you have any parent that you would recommend for Pilot Parent training, call GOARC.

At this time we have no parents active in the program of children who have microcephaly or hydrocephaly. We need more parents of children with epilepsy, or cerebral palsy who might be interested in working with parents whose children have similar disabilities.

## PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

The Action Committee on Poverty and Mental Retardation has completed the first stage of Project Identification. The statistical report for May through December is:

Total number of homes contacted and information disseminated: 14,363

Persons Identified: 250

Total number of persons identified as mentally retarded: 20

Total number of persons identified as cerebral palsy: 15

Total number of persons identified as epilepsy: 20

Total number of persons identified as other: 195

Breakdown by age group:

Total number between the ages of 0-4: 14

Total number between the ages of 5-18: 42

Total number between the ages of 19-61: 115

Total number 62 years and over: 79

Total number of males: 111

Total number of females: 139

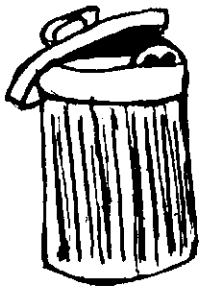
The Committee is proud of the success of this project. It points out the necessity for every agency to become involved with outreach, assuring that each individual is aware of their services and providing the necessary services to further enrich the handicapped person's life.

The second stage of the project is the continuation of follow-up with the agencies and the individuals identified.

Billie Cook, coordinator of the Poverty Committee wishes to thank the Committee for the excellent response and cooperation given for this project.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SESAME STREET HAS PROGRAM FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN

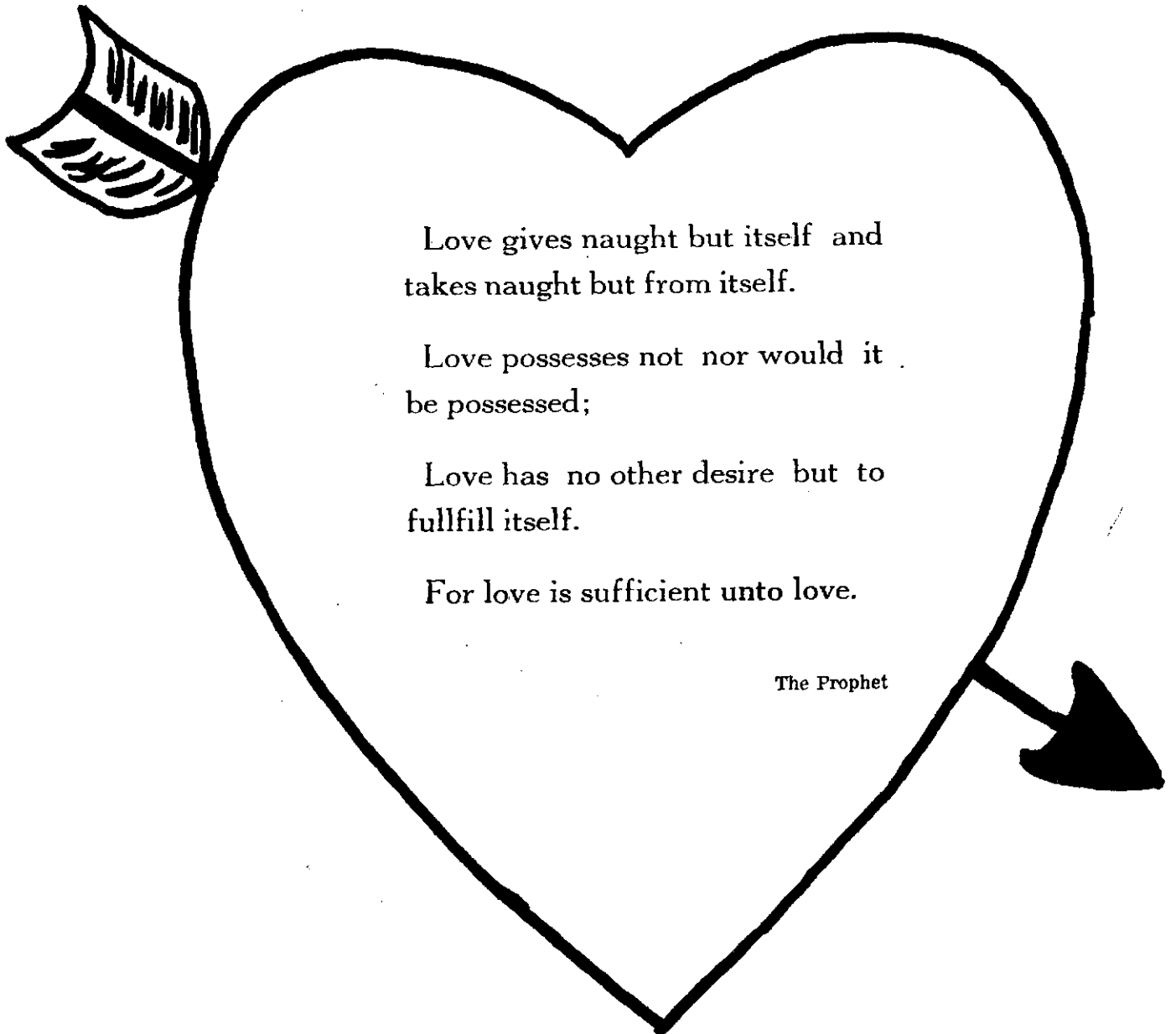


This season on TV the Sesame Street program will include something entirely new. Every Wednesday there will be a segment for mentally retarded children - something that non-handicapped children can also enjoy but which is specifically geared for retarded children themselves. If you're interested, please tune in.

## UNO NEWSLETTER

The UNO Department of Special Education is planning to initiate a newsletter to parents of exceptional children and interested professionals. This newsletter will be mailed on a regular basis and will provide information about parent groups, meeting times, places, and topics, as well as information about seminars, regional meetings or speakers of interest. In addition to the newsletter, the Department is also planning a course for parents of exceptional children designed to inform parents of interesting and timely topics. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter and in finding out times and dates of special courses, please mail or phone your address to Jean Muncy, Department of Special Education, UNO, Box 688, Omaha, Nebraska, 68101, Telephone: 554-2201.

\* \* \* \* \*



Love gives naught but itself and  
takes naught but from itself.

Love possesses not nor would it  
be possessed;

Love has no other desire but to  
fullfill itself.

For love is sufficient unto love.

The Prophet

## LOOKING BACK - 1975

The New Year has begun with the Nebraska community-based mental retardation programs still facing a bleak financial crisis. Parents are dealing with a fee-scale many find confusing and unfair. The shock-wave still is felt in the ENCOR system as programs and personnel are shifted and cut back. Other Regions are said to be suffering more drastically than ours.

The New Year has some promise, though, that the bottom may have been reached and things may get better from here on. The Beatrice Consent Decree awaits implementation; the Panel has already met. The State's Senators ate dinner with parents and professionals to talk about a common concern. Other rebuilding strategies have begun. In any case, government action will likely be needed to reverse the problem brought on by government policies acted on last year.

These pages of pictures offer a look back to the closing days of 1975. In early November, the funding crisis was very much an intramural problem of the ARC's. But graphic action on NebARC's part to educate the State's Administration and citizens have by now made it a problem generally known and felt by many in Nebraska communities.

If the first step in solving a problem is to identify it and make it known, we're probably moving in the right direction. The State effort climaxed by a rally on the capitol steps was heavily supported by GOARC and even it's youth, GOYARC. We can all take some credit as hope continues for solutions in this crisis as well as better days in the New Year.



*The message*



*John Clark at the mike*

# PLEASE DO THESE SIMPLE THINGS:

(So you can be part of us in '76)

## 1 FILL THIS OUT

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_ New ( ) Renewal ( )  
Place of Employment \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent of a retarded person \_\_\_\_ Interested citizen \_\_\_\_  
Interested youth \_\_\_\_ Professional in the field \_\_\_\_

## 2 TELL US WHICH YOU'D RATHER BE (CHECK ONE...It's \$9.50 FOR ADULT OR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP OR \$3.50 FOR YOUTH MEMBERSHIP)

- ( ) AN ACTIVE MEMBER- One who would like to be actively involved in volunteer projects, services or committees.
- ( ) A SUPPORTIVE MEMBER- One who wants to root for the cause without being actively involved. (The GOARC Gazette, Mental Retardation News and FOCUS will be sent just the same.)

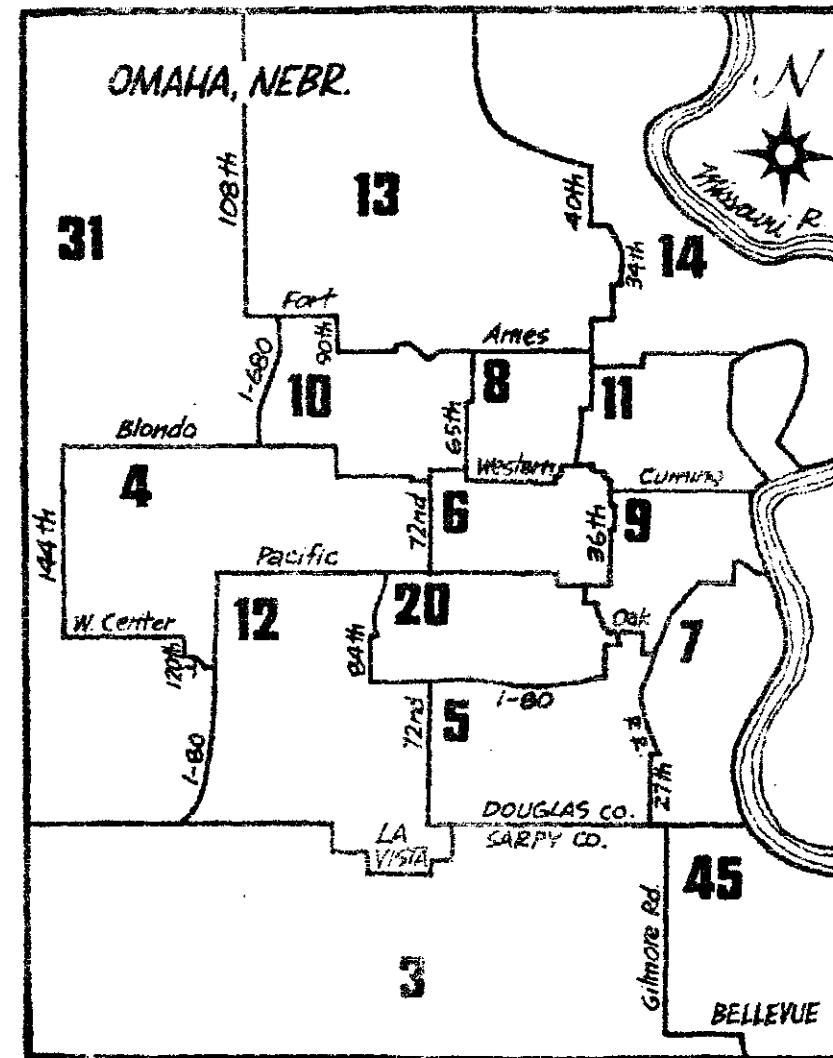
## 3 LOOK AT THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT MAP.

Put an "X" in the area where you live.

## 4 DO YOU KNOW OF OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN JOINING GOARC OR GOYARC?

Please list their names, addresses and phone #'s:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



- ⑤ PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:  
Enclosed is \$9.50 for adult individual,  
or couple ( )  
\$3.50 for youth (GOYARC) ( )

Bill me ( )

- ⑥ PLEASE MAIL TO:  
GOARC  
140 South 40th Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68131



*Senator Chambers speaks*



## FEBRUARY

9 Leadership Development Meeting  
Nasr's Restaurant  
6553 Ames - Noon

11 Film Festival - 7:30 P.M., MCRI  
Video Night  
Guests: Kay Galloway  
Dr. Jack Stark

11 GOARC Youth Committee  
7:30 P.M.  
GOARC Office

12 GOARC Executive Committee Meeting  
7:30 P.M.  
GOARC Office

12 Pilot Parent Growth Group - 10:00 A.M. - NOON  
Catherine Williams  
3820 North 17th St.

16 Pilot Parent Monthly Meeting, GOARC Office, 7:30 P.M.

17 GOARC Board of Directors Meeting, GOARC Office, 7:30 P.M.

18 Madonna Home and School Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Madonna School

19 Pilot Parent Growth Group  
Catherine Williams

26 Pilot Parent Growth Group  
Catherine Williams

## MARCH

1 Pilot Parent Training  
GOARC Office  
7:30 P.M.

4 General Membership Meeting  
First Federal of Lincoln  
2101 South 42nd St.  
7:00 P.M.

Shirley Dean  
4842 Schler #107  
Omaha, NE. 68104

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....and now  
the  
good news?

You can stretch your Tax dollars  
and I can get an education  
by voting FOR Amendment six (part 1)

STRETCH TAX DOLLARS ..... Here's one way your public school district can avoid more expense by working with other schools and by eliminating the need to establish new programs, staff, equipment and facilities in each school district.

SERVE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ..... Who cannot wait for new programs to be developed by utilizing existing programs.

IT IS NOTHING NEW ..... Let's have Nebraska join the 40 other states which have taken this practical, economical, fully constitutional approach to serving ALL their children.

BE PRACTICAL ..... Untie the hands of our public schools. If contracting is more economical and would better serve handicapped children, let them do it.

HELP PUBLIC SCHOOLS ..... Help all handicapped children.

Won't You please  
vote FOR Amendment six (part 1)

**BALLOT AMENDMENT 6**

**PART 1**

**A VOTE FOR THIS PROPOSAL WILL ENABLE THE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION PROVIDING THAT THE STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION MAY CONTRACT WITH NON-PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL OR OTHER SERVICES TO HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AS LONG AS THE SERVICES ARE NON-SECTARIAN IN NATURE.**

**A VOTE AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL WILL CONTINUE THE PRESENT SITUATION WHEREBY NEITHER THE STATE NOR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION MAY CONTRACT WITH NON-PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL OR OTHER SERVICES TO HANDICAPPED CHILDREN EVEN THOUGH NON-SECTARIAN IN NATURE.**

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PERMIT CONTRACTING WITH INSTITUTIONS NOT WHOLLY OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY THE STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION FOR NON-SECTARIAN SERVICES FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.**



**FOR**



**AGAINST**

**EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ELECTION DAY NOV. 2, 1976**

**Citizens for the Education of Handicapped Children  
(Support Amendment VI)  
Mrs. Gene Nicholien, Chairperson  
13305 William Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68144  
Mr. Luther Schmidt, Treasurer  
407 Hillside Drive, Hastings, Nebraska 68901**

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# the GOARC GAZETTE

Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens  
140 So. 40 St. Omaha, NE. Ph. 551-9450

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APRIL, 1976



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

(see story pages 4 & 5)

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**GOARC Executive Committee:** John Clark, President; Paul Tamisiea, 1st Vice-President; George Armstrong, 2nd Vice-President; Jan Novicki, Recording Secretary; Shirley Dean, Coresponding Secretary; Pat Jung, Treasurer.

**GOARC Staff:** Tom Miller, Executive Director; Amy Humphries, Administrative Assistant; Lynne MacDonald, Office Manager; Patty Smith, Coordinator, Pilot Parent Program; Carl Sullivan, Client Ombudsperson; Billie Cook, Coordinator, Poverty and Mental Retardation Program.

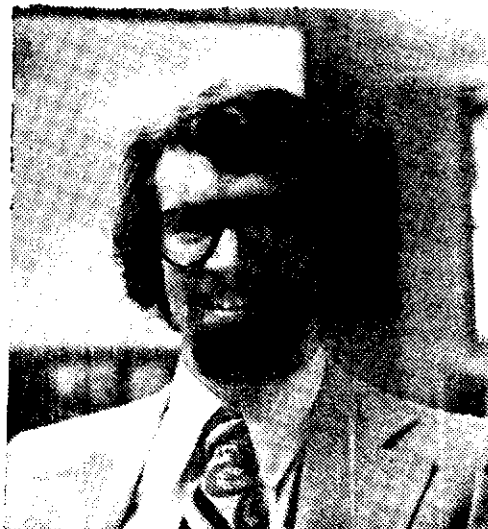
**Editor:** Pamela Kooiker

GOARC is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide a strong volunteer support organization for all mentally retarded citizens and their families by advocating for the rights, needs, and full development of these citizens of Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Annual membership: \$9.50, Life membership: \$100.00.



A United Way Agency

## WERE THEY LISTENING?????



During October, 1975 GOARC members rallied down in Lincoln, called their own Senators, sent letters to the Governor, paid for a newspaper ad in the World Herald, and signed thousands of petitions. The reasons for these various activities was to get support from Governor Exon to make up a deficit created by a shift in federal dollars away from mental retardation programs. After a meeting NebARC and GOARC members had with Governor Exon, Governor Exon did come out with a deficit appropriation bill for the state to the tune of \$528,000 for pre-school programs. Although these dollars will help support pre-school programs, they were not sufficient to cover the entire deficit in other programs. (See article in this Gazette which describes those

programs and services which were cut.) On March 15th, GOARC members, some of them with their children, again made the trip to Lincoln to talk to state senators about the loss of programs within ENCOR. Unfortunately, many parents met with objections from their Senators which they were unable to answer. Senators had been receiving confusing information regarding the funding situation and it appeared as though no one had the straight facts down. John Clark and I also met with much confusion from Senators while we were in Lincoln on March 15th and 16th.

However confusing the fiscal facts may be, one thing is clear...Unless more money is delivered to community-based mental retardation programs throughout the state many valuable programs will close. Unless the Senators approve a deficit bill and the Governor signs it, mentally retarded children and adults will not have the service they once had. Or if they do continue to receive a service, that service will be so diluted in quality that it will in effect be little better than babysitting. Those facts are clear. And it was those very facts that parents talked to their senators about when they visited with them.

Will the information on program and service cuts mean more to the Senators than mere fiscal information? Will the Senators fully understand the implication of programs ending for numerous people? Will money stand in the way of quality education, training and care for numerous retarded citizens in Nebraska? In other words, were they really listening?

As of the writing of this article (March 19) there had not yet been a vote by the senators. We sincerely hope they were listening, and we hope the Governor was listening too and will sign the bill for State retardation programs.

Tom Miller  
Executive Director

## BITS AND PIECES

### FROM THE EDITOR

I thought "Bits and Pieces" was an appropriate heading for pages two and three this month, because I discovered all kinds of "little" things that needed to be passed on to you. I hope you'll take time to read each one of them...

\* \* \* \*

**THANK YOU!** To all the parents who have sent pictures of themselves and their kids to me for the May and June GAZETTE's. If you forgot, Mom's, you can have an extra two weeks until April 15 (just like taxes!). Dad's, you have 'til May 1. Let's all brag a little! Send them to me at 1313 So. 97th Street, 68124.

\* \* \* \*

**APRIL 14** You have another chance to see a free film in the 3rd floor conference room at MCRI on that date. "Cast No Shadow", a film about handicapped persons enjoying a variety of recreational activities, begins at 7:30 P.M. Jean Milder will make an Easter Seal Camp presentation at that time. Which brings me to...

\* \* \* \*

**EASTER SEAL CAMPS** Easter Seal's Camp Kiwanis will again be offering residential camping for all handicapped persons. The 1976 sessions are as follows:

June 27-July 3	Physically Handicapped	Ages: 6-13yrs.
July 4-July 10	Mentally Retarded	Ages: 15-24yrs.
July 11-July 23	Physically Handicapped	Ages: 25-60yrs.
July 25-July 31	Mentally Retarded	Ages: 8-14
Aug. 1-Aug. 13	Physically Handicapped	Ages: 14-24
Aug. 15-Aug. 21	Mentally Retarded	Ages: 25-60

If you want more information and/or an application form, please call Dave Evans at 333-9306 or write Easter Seal's Camp Kiwanis, Box 14204, Omaha, Nebraska, 68114.

\* \* \* \*

**ANOTHER DATE TO REMEMBER** On May 1, 1976, the Nebraska Student Speech and Hearing Association, UNO Chapter, will present their annual symposium. Dr. H. Fisher will present and demonstrate Crager's Test of Concept Utilization. Mrs. Kathy Fisher, M.A., and Ms. Mary Simon, M.A., will present Speech and Language Programs and Techniques for the Trainable Retarded Child. They will present many innovative

techniques and programs available to parents, paraprofessionals and professionals.  
The symposium will be held on UNO campus, Auditorium A, College of Business Administration Building. The cost is \$10.00 (\$5.00 for students) for those who pre-register, and \$12.00 at the door on May 1st. Send your pre-registration fee to NSSHA, Special Education Department, UNO, Box 688, Omaha, Nebraska, 68101.

\* \* \* \*

**SPECIAL SUMMER SCHOOL** Millard Public Schools are preparing a six-week summer school program to meet the needs of special children in either regular or special classes. It is anticipated that the program will be held mornings at Norris Elementary School. Emphasis will be on academic skills. Special classes will be limited to 12 students and will be held in conjunction with regular summer school classes. Availability of speech and language therapy will be determined by the expressed need of these services. Anticipated cost is \$20.00. Contact Adeline Reis, Special Education Director, Millard Public Schools for more information: 895-9494.

\* \* \* \*

**FOSTER HOMES NEEDED** ENCOR has a possibility of one adult and two children in need of a place to live due to the funding cuts.

Douglas County Adult Foster Home Program is willing to work with ENCOR by certifying families and/or individuals as adult foster parents to prevent adults from being committed to the Beatrice State Home due to lack of a place to live. If you can help (or know someone who can) by providing a residence, peer modeling, supervision, and assistance with the mastery of a self-help skills contact: Ruth Corbin at the Douglas County Social Services, 444-7271. The county pays \$185.00 per month for each individual's room and board.

\* \* \* \*

**NEEDED** Guardian - advocate for adult multi-handicapped and mentally retarded person recently returned from the Beatrice State Home. Anyone who might want to assume this critical role, please contact: Harry Naasz at the ENHSA Central Office, 444-6500. Thank-you, in advance.

\* \* \* \*



**HAPPY SPRING & HAPPY EASTER !!**



## SOMETHING SPECIAL

I had the opportunity to attend my first Olympic competition Saturday, March 20. What an experience!

You're probably saying, "She must be crazy! The Olympics are over until summer." You're wrong! I attended some "Special Olympic" basketball games at Offutt Air Force Base which were sponsored by the Nebraska Special Olympics Inc. and directed by Edward King, the committee chairperson.

The participants, which came from all over the state, arrived at noon Friday, March 19. They were served their evening meal on the base, had a tour of the Underground Command Post, individual and team competition, and a dance all in that one day. Saturday was just as busy!

Singles competition in the Run-Dribble-Shoot part of the games ran from noon Friday to 5 P.M. I didn't get to attend, but Mr. King (the committee chairperson) told me there were 266 winners (people who placed 1st through 8th). There's no way I can list all their names, but I congratulate them on their good work--WOW!

Approximately thirty teams from across the state played in the team competition which began Friday evening and finished up on Saturday afternoon. I took quite a few pictures, but not nearly enough. There was just too much going on for one person with one camera. I hope the pictures on the following page can give you some idea of the "games". (A few didn't turn out as well as I'd hoped!)

I'd like to congratulate all those who took part...I loved it! Also Thank-you to the Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Officials Association referees for their time and excellent officiating. An extra Thank-you to all Offutt personnel for everything they did to make these Olympics a success!

\* \* \* \* \*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

IF YOU THINK YOU MISSED SOMETHING SPECIAL THIS TIME, DON'T MISS THE AREA 6 SPECIAL OLYMPICS TRACK AND FIELD COMPETITION TO BE HELD ON MAY 6TH AT BERQUIST STADIUM AT 44TH AND MARINDA. STATE COMPETITION WILL BE MAY 21-22 AT WAYNE STATE COLLEGE IN WAYNE, NEBRASKA. THERE'LL BE MORE INFORMATION ON THIS LATER. PLAN TO ATTEND!



NEBRASKA  
SPECIAL OLYMPICS INC.



## SOMETHING SPECIAL



North Platte takes a shot in vain as they lose to Martin Luther Home from Beatrice 13-28.



Ken Willensiek, coach of the Martin Luther Home girls' team, leads his girls on to first place in their division.



Martin Luther Home's 1st place team. (L to R Standing): Vicki Kane, Leann Ensign, Terry Stanley, Eilleen Wogan; (Sitting): Susie Clegg, Kristy Kelsy, Marcia Sidebottom, Julie Nickal.



CHAP School cheerleaders cheer for their team with the assistance of Marge Waterman and Ann Hayer. Cheerleaders are: (Standing, L to R) John Maddix, Phillip Hymore, Andy Peterson, Ellen Hallin; (Sitting, L to R) Shawn Willson, Bryon Willson, Tommy Betz, Julie Hamilton.



The CHAP bench looks on as their team loses to the Westpoint Cadets. But... it was a great game!



The action was fast - no standing around!

## GOARC'S REVISED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

During the latter part of last year and the beginning of this year, the Constitutional Review Committee worked on the revision of GOARC's by-laws and articles of incorporation. As stated in the initial articles of incorporation, "members of GOARC may by two-thirds vote of the membership amend and change the original articles of incorporation." The articles of incorporation in their entirety are presented on the following pages in order for you to view them prior to the May General Membership meeting when they will be voted on. Please read these articles and if you have any questions prior to the meeting you may call the GOARC office at: 551-9450. Also, if you would like to see a copy of the original articles of incorporation please call the GOARC office.

Thomas Miller, Executive Director

### ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF GREATER OMAHA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS

These revised Articles of Incorporation are adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Nebraska Non-profit Corporation Act and shall supersede the original Articles of Incorporation and all amendments thereto.

#### ARTICLE I

##### NAME

The name of the Corporation shall be "GREATER OMAHA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS."

#### ARTICLE II

##### DURATION

The Corporation shall have perpetual existence.

#### ARTICLE III

##### PURPOSE

The purpose of the corporation shall be to provide, through the volunteer efforts of its members and through its employees, guidance and support to mentally retarded citizens and their families and to promote the rights, welfare and development of retarded citizens. Such purpose shall be carried out primarily in the Douglas and Sarpy County, Nebraska, area and may be carried out through the corporation's own activities and in cooperation or association with other public and private organizations, entities and individuals. The corporation may take and own property, both real and personal, by gift, purchase, grant, bequest, or device and its funds may be invested in real and personal property necessary for carrying out the corporate purpose and in such securities of every kind and nature as the Board of Directors may authorize. The corporation may also sell, transfer, encumber and otherwise dispose of any property so acquired.

Upon receiving the prior approval of its Board of Directors in each instance,

the Association may act, to the extent authorized by the laws of the State of Nebraska, as a guardian of the person of retarded citizens.

It is the intent that the corporation shall comply with and be subject to the provisions of the Nebraska Non-profit Corporation Act, and no part of the corporation's funds shall ever be distributable to its members, directors or officers as such and no member, director or officer of the corporation shall receive any compensation for his or her service as such, but may be reimbursed for authorized reasonable expenses incurred in the conduct of the corporate affairs.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### MEMBERS

The corporation shall have members but no shareholders or share or capital stock. Private property of the members shall not be subject to the payment of corporate debts to any extent whatever.

#### ARTICLE V

##### REGULATION OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. Members. Any individual may become a member of the corporation upon meeting such qualifications and paying such dues as shall be provided from time to time in the By-laws. Each member shall have one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of the membership. The annual meeting of the members shall be held at the time and place designated in the manner provided in the By-laws.
2. Directors. (a) Number and qualification. The management of the corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors which shall be composed of not less than 15 nor more than 50 members of the corporation. Not less than one-half of the directors shall be parents or guardians of retarded citizens. Subject to the foregoing, the number of qualifications of directors shall be such as are provided in the by-laws, may appoint an Executive Committee of the Board which shall consist of not less than seven members of the Board of Directors. To the extent provided in the By-laws, such committee shall have and may exercise the authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the corporation. To the extent authorized in the By-laws, the Board of Directors may appoint advisory members of the Board and may appoint other committees including advisory committees, the membership of which need not be restricted to members of the corporation.
- (b) Election and Term. Directors shall be elected for a term of two years at the annual meeting of the members.

#### ARTICLE VI

##### AMENDMENTS

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the members. Written notice of any proposed amendment and the place and time of the meeting shall be mailed to all members not less than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted upon.

## ARTICLE VII

### DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS

On dissolution or final liquidation and after complying with the required provisions of the Nebraska Non-profit Corporation Act, the remaining assets of the corporation shall be devoted to such charitable purpose consistent with the purpose of the corporation as the Board of Directors shall determine in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Nebraska Non-Profit Corporation Act.

## ARTICLE VIII

### REGISTERED OFFICE AND REGISTERED AGENT

The street address of the registered office is 140 South 40th Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68131, and the name of its registered agent at such address is Thomas Miller.

\* \* \* \*

## PILOT PARENT GROWTH GROUP

Some really nice things have been happening at Catherine William's house each Thursday morning these past weeks. Gathering there for coffee and lots of sharing have been a number of the ladies from the area. Patty Smith, with the help of Elaine Pierce (student), has been leading the group. Our hope is to extend help to many of the families who have not yet received the assistance of Pilot Parents. This group will provide positive ways for the acceptance of your handicapped child. If you want to join with Catherine's group, please call her at 455-4475 or Patty Smith at the GOARC office - 551-9450.

\* \* \* \*

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

On March 12, 1976 about twenty representatives of various organizations and agencies attended a meeting at the GOARC office to begin a regional Developmental Disabilities Council. Their first meeting was primarily an orientation for the group as to the possibilities and need for such a council. At the next meeting, on Thursday, April 8th, at the Easter Seal Society, the council will develop a mission statement and begin to set their goals. The council is being established under the direction of the State Information and Referral Service with Gay Crosier, as the Director of the project. Anyone wanting information about the Developmental Disabilities Council may call Gay Crosier collect at (402) 464-8279.

## SOMETHING FOR SPRING

Take a look at April and what GOYARC is up to this month. You may well find something you are interested in, or an activity that would interest someone you know. You sure are welcome to join in!

### April 4 (Sunday) Kite-flying and Picnic

Counting on the Nebraska weather can be a pretty chancey venture. But with hope that the storm clouds won't be there and the prairie winds will, we'll meet at Fontenelle Park at 3:00 in the afternoon. Lori Borgen (393-1683) and Vicki Kelly (397-1054) will lead the committee to plan the supper cook-out with everyone bringing a part of it. Bill and Judy Peterson (393-8242) are their advisors.

### April 10 (Saturday) Easter-Egg Hunt

Gary Sargent of the Youngers Junior Achievement group plans something for kids. The JA company will likely have their activity at Elmwood Park at 2:00 in the afternoon. Plan to call Gary if you know of a child who is interested. Rick Duffer (334-9303) and Pat Henry (397-3315) are the GOYARC contacts.

### April 11 (Sunday) AWARENESS

Monthly discussion group on value-oriented subjects appropriate to young adult concerns. Pastor Charles Harmon (571-1128) will be the advisor for this shared exploration of what life is. Feel free to come along; 2:00 to 3:30 at St. Timothy Church (9700 Dodge). Call Tim Norris or Pat Henry (397-3315) for more information.

### April 18 (Sunday)

Happy Easter!

### April 21 (Wednesday) Iowa Western Community College

Rick Duffer and Vicki Kelly have been asked to teach a class on Normalization on campus at Clarinda. In past years, GOYARC's presentation has been a regular feature of the spring course on mental retardation. Congratulations!

### April 24 (Saturday) Cage Ball

Another challenge to the ZTA Sorority! We'll take them on in volleyball (using a large cage ball as an equalizer). Hopefully we can use the Prep gym from 2 until 3:30. Rose and Mike White (551-6306) are the advisors working on this project with Linda Micek and Chris Beem (333-8169). We'll see how the ball bounces!

### April 25 (Sunday) Spring Hike At Wankonsie

The Wankonsie State Park is located in the Iowa bluffs across from Nebraska City. It's a pretty place to be in the Spring. We'll leave in the afternoon from Crossroads and be back at 10:00 that night. Call Elaine Larson (392-2518) and Heide Davies (391-0661). Dave Fisher (291-7047) is their advisor.

Be part of our April!

## PROPOSED - ENCOR PROGRAM CUTS

In last month's Gazette, the effects of the cuts made at ENCOR in November were listed. On March 11th, the ENCOR Governing Board proposed an additional \$336,000 cut from ENCOR programs and services. These additional cuts will have the following impact on ENCOR clients and programs until July 1, 1976. If the Unicameral should happen to appropriate funds for ENCOR, not all of these cuts will go into effect.

- ....the client records staff will be cut by one half. This staff is responsible for keeping client record information for program planning purposes within the agency and for reporting to numerous County, State and Federal Governmental agencies.
- ....The billing services staff will be cut by one half. This staff is responsible for computing days of client service in order to bill the Department of Public Welfare and other funding agencies.
- ....The MagCard staff will be cut by one and a half staff members. MagCard provides typing services for the entire agency.
- ....Personnel services will be cut by one and three quarters staff members.
- ....Six staff members will be cut from the transportation department. Approximately 75 mentally retarded clients will no longer be able to receive transportation services from ENCOR, though they had relied on this service to participate in other programs and services, such as special programs provided by ENCOR and the public schools.
- ....ENCOR will no longer have an Executive Director who is paid from the ENCOR budget.
- ....There will no longer be a staff member responsible for licensing ENCOR facilities for the State Department of Health.
- ....There will no longer be a staff member responsible for writing grants or searching for alternative funding sources.
- ....There will no longer be an administrative assistant to ENCOR's Executive Director.
- ....Because of two staff cuts from the Program Development and Training Division, the division will be eliminated. This Division provided all on-going staff training, new staff orientation and other staff development services.
- ....43 staff members will be cut from the Residential Division. Five alternative living units and one residence will be closed.
- ....25 clients will be totally cut from residential services. All of these clients may potentially be institutionalized or re-institutionalized at the Beatrice State Home.
- ....26 clients will be dropped from 7 day residential services and will receive services for 5 days a week.
- ....The crisis residence will be closed. This service has been used by parents of retarded children who are in dire need of short term respite services. Without this valuable community service, several children may potentially be institutionalized at the Beatrice State Home.
- ....One residential coordinator will be terminated.
- ....Two of three residential secretaries will be cut. Also, the two remaining secretaries for the family resource offices and three vocational secretaries will be terminated. This means that records

of services to clients must be written by hand, and staff who are serving clients directly must take time to answer telephones and perform other secretarial duties.

- ....The Developmental Maximation Unit, which serves severely and profoundly retarded children who are multi-handicapped and have medical needs, will terminate services for 8 children who will be placed in other ENCOR residences.
- ....The Vocational Division will lose 25 staff members. The Industrial Training Centers will not be able to provide programming for clients, but instead will focus on production only, for most clients.
- ....Many of the remaining vocational staff members will receive a cut in pay. This was done in order to retain as many clients as possible.
- ....The South Industrial Training Center will be closed. The clients will move to other training centers further from their homes.
- ....All vocational placement services will be terminated. This means that no clients will be placed in jobs in the community. In other words, all movement from ENCOR vocational programs will be stopped.
- ....All vocational specialists (a psychologist, a speech and physical therapist) will be terminated.
- ....18 staff members including the Division Director will be terminated from ENCOR's Educational Services Division.
- ....68 children will no longer receive services from ENCOR's integrated pre-school programs. Seven pre-school centers will no longer provide services.
- ....All home training programs to mentally retarded infants will be terminated.
- ....All Family Resource Service Offices, which provided services close to families, have been closed.
- ....The Toy Lending Library which provided educational and instructional toys and materials to impoverished families will be cut.
- ....Guidance (counseling) services to all clients who are in direct ENCOR programs will be terminated. Individualized program planning for these clients will no longer be possible.
- ....Four advisors (counselors) will be terminated from the Adult and Child Guidance Service.
- ....Service quality for every client will be seriously affected. Over 110 clients will have their services cut; over 100 staff will be terminated.
- ....Many well-trained and highly specialized staff members will be cut from ENCOR. It will be very difficult and very expensive for the agency to re-build when the agency receives funds in July, 1976.

These cuts are taking place in spite of the recent consent decree which stipulates that mentally retarded citizens have a right to adequate care and rehabilitation in the least restrictive alternative, and to a good quality program. The consent decree also states that up to 750 mentally retarded residents of the Beatrice State Home will move to the community programs in the next three years. These ENCOR cuts could mean that several clients will have to return to an institution, and that many persons not now receiving direct services will be admitted to an institution because services are not available to them in the community.

## PANEL PUSHES FOR MORE FUNDS

Shortly after Governor Exon and Judge Albert Schatz signed the consent decree regarding the Beatrice State Home, a mental retardation panel was selected to plan for and implement services in community programs. The panel members are Richard E. Shugrue, Chairperson; Patricia Stivins, M.D., Vice-Chairperson; Fredric Girardeau; Dean Settle and Dr. James Shelton. Recently the panel sent a memo to Governor Exon and also a resolution requesting the funding of community-based programs. Their memo and resolution follows:

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Governor J. James Exon  
Members of the Nebraska Legislature

FROM: Nebraska Mental Retardation Panel

RE: Resolution adopted on March 5, 1976 concerning funding of community-based mental retardation programs.

Enclosed please find a copy of a resolution related to the funding problems of the community-based mental retardation system which was passed by unanimous vote at today's meeting of the Nebraska Panel on Mental Retardation.

The resolution, while largely self explanatory, was adopted because according to the information we have been able to gather to date, it is our conclusion that the fiscal problems in the community-based mental retardation system are not limited to pre-school programs but extend to all service areas being offered by the Mental Retardation Regions. We therefore are urging that any additional funds appropriated for fiscal year 1975-76 be unrestricted so that they might be used in the most efficient manner possible according to whatever program areas have the greatest needs.

While we are not able to name specific amounts at the present time, it is also our conclusion that the additional \$528,000 currently being considered in LB 972 is insufficient to restore the community-based system to the previous level of quality which existed as of the end of FY 74-75. We are very concerned that it not be necessary to use any appropriations for FY 76-77 for the purpose of regaining ground previously lost in order to obtain the previous standards of program quality. If the current level of funds being considered in LB 972 is not increased for at least some of the Mental Retardation Regions we feel that it would be necessary to divert some of the funding for FY 76-77 to regain previously lost ground.

We would like to request that you carefully consider this matter and we hope that you will be able to support the Panel's efforts to obtain sufficient funding for the community-based mental retardation system.

Patricia C. Stivins, M.D.  
Vice Chairperson

Frederic L. Girardeau, Ph.D.  
Panel Member

Dean B. Settle, M.D.  
Panel Member

James T. Shelton, M.D.  
Panel Member



## RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS the Nebraska Mental Retardation Panel has the responsibility under the Nebraska Consent Decree No. 72-L-299 to develop a plan of implementation for submission to the Governor and,
- WHEREAS section 8g (4) of the Consent Decree emphasizes a "plan for increasing and supplementing the present community-based programs so as to facilitate the placement of members of the class in community-based programs..." and,
- WHEREAS the realignment of federal dollars has resulted in severe cutbacks in present community programs and placement of members of the class and,
- WHEREAS such cutbacks have drastically reduced the short-term and long-term program effectiveness for the continuation and expansion of community-based mental retardation programs to meet the needs of the class,
- NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Nebraska Mental Retardation Panel stands strongly behind the restoration, expansion, and improvement of community-based programs.
- BE IT THEREFORE further resolved that in order to restore existing programs to their previous levels and provide for a sufficient foundation for improvement and expansion of such programs in the future, that the Nebraska Mental Retardation Panel on Friday, March 5, 1976 by unanimous action hereby recommends that the additional funds being considered for the Mental Retardation Regions in LB 972 be appropriated without restrictions so that they may be used in the programs where the immediate needs are greatest and that consideration be given to increasing the amounts now contained in LB 972 to a level sufficient to restore the programs to the level and quality which existed at the end of fiscal year 74-75, and to increase funding for FY 76-77 in order to insure the continued expansion of community-based mental retardation programs.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PILOT PARENT BOXSCORE**—Taken from the annual report given to the GOARC Board at their March Meeting:

Number of training sessions held: 3 (one in Fremont, NE.)  
Number of Pilot Parents trained: 16—Omaha; 11—Fremont  
Number of active Pilot Parents: 27  
Number of new parents served: 107  
Number of children served: 110 (3 families with 2 handicapped children)  
77% of our referrals are ages 0-6; 21 referrals were for children not mentally retarded (7—cerebral palsy; 7—epilepsy; 7 other disabilities)

This is a rather short summary of some of the things that have happened in Pilot Parents this past year. We hope to have a more detailed picture in a future issue of the Gazette. It's all very exciting and we want to share it with you.

## A GIFT FOR CHILDREN

Cheri Jo Jung was three years old on January 11, 1975. She was scheduled for enrollment in CEEP's Cooperative Classroom at Wee Care I in September.

Cheri Jo died on September 17, 1975, following complications after surgery. In her memory, her parents, Pat and Connie Jung, have donated the following equipment to the Cooperative Classroom: large floor mat, speech mirror, large wedge, sociable and 5 bolsters.

Connie expressed the family's feelings about the memorial: "The classroom is where Cheri would have been and where her friends are. We want it to be something that will be used by the children."

The equipment has added a lot of color to the classroom. If you would like to see for yourself, stop and visit. (72nd and Dodge, behind Paramount Furniture) Phone: 551-8231.



*Rolling is fun!--and much easier for Lori McManus on this giant WEDGE. Lori's helper is supervising teacher Terry Unterseher.*



*Carrie Leeder's emerging language skills are developing with the help of the SPEECH MIRROR.*



*The SOCIABLE is the setting for a story being read by teacher Mary Stuckey to a group of handicapped and non-handicapped children.*

## DEE EVERITT RUNS FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Dee Everitt, a parent of a mentally retarded child in Lincoln, has been a very active ARC member in both the local and state association. Dee was Chairperson of NebARC's Legislative Action Committee and also past President of Lancaster County Association for Retarded Citizens. We are very excited that finally a strong ARC member will be running for a state position. Dee Everitt has filed as a candidate for the 1st District on the State Board of Education. She feels that she has the expertise for understanding the regulatory functions for special education.

Following are several issues that Dee would like to stress if she is elected to the State Board:

1. She would like to see increased State Aid to Education. For years, the State of Nebraska has been far behind what the local school districts have been paying for educational costs. She would like to see the state take more responsibilities for educational programs throughout the state.
2. She would like to see the State Board of Education serve in leadership capacity rather than merely reacting to crisis situations.
3. Dee would also like to see the State Board of Education supply leadership for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation which in recent years has acted autonomously from the State Education Department.

Some of you may know Dee Everitt personally. Those of you who do know her know that Dee is a very strong committed and dedicated person, and could provide the Board of Education with a point of view that they have not been receiving. Also, as a parent of a retarded child, Dee Everitt is a strong advocate for all programs which serve handicapped children. If any of you are interested in assisting in Dee Everitt's campaign for the State Board, you can send a check to her at:

Dee Everitt for State Board  
4325 Meredith  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

\* \* \* \* \*

## "POLLING"

"Polling", a new quarterly magazine for developmentally disabled citizens, is seeking input from persons with epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and mental retardation. While consumer oriented (the magazine's editor/founder is an activist from a consumer group called "Caucus" and the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities,) the magazine welcomes any poems, articles, and stories. If your mentally retarded child or friend has written anything which can give us non-handicapped people new insights, please have him/her send his/her article to:

Polling Magazine  
122 East 23rd Street  
New York, New York 10010

## WHERE TO LIVE?

If mentally retarded people are to have a place to live in the community, then a number of things have to be already present in the residential system that serves them. For one thing, residences have to be truly integrated into normal neighborhoods. People can't be "ganged together", or it becomes much like an institution. The reason why a person is in this type of service has to be known to everyone who interacts with him. For example, it doesn't make much sense for the residential staff to be doing elaborate behavior programs with a youth who happens to be in the residence only because his folks need time to get things together at home.

Issues like these and others similar to them make a quality residential system difficult to build. Some people maintain it cannot be done well. Others ignore the question of quality and dismiss the hope of community services offhandedly computing that it cannot be done at a cost that competes with the apparent savings in dealing with large numbers in an institution.

A few months ago, a Pennsylvania newspaper ad bluntly stated just that -- community-based residential services are no more than a fanciful dream. As it turned out the ad was the product of local labor unions whose numbers were institutional employers. But just the same, this incident did arouse the NARC Task Force on Residential Services. What about their conviction that this plan of services could be done well?

Eleanor Elkins is a near-legend in the National Association for Retarded Citizens. Her untiring efforts as a foster-parent of a retarded youth (now a young adult) are matched by the intensity and conviction that the same opportunity to live in the community should be offered to all. The Task Force she leads is marked by her own feelings of advocacy and wide experience. Eleanor has traveled widely, often at her own expense. Her seriousness and critical searching reflect the importance she and her committee place on their quest.

Why come to Omaha, particularly in blustery March? The volunteers in the Residential Task Force needed to see more data that a quality system can indeed work. They met with one of our own, Ed Skarnulis, the author of the Alternative Residence concept, sometimes called "ALU's". If Ed does not have all the answers in residential services, he is asking the most important questions in the field right now.

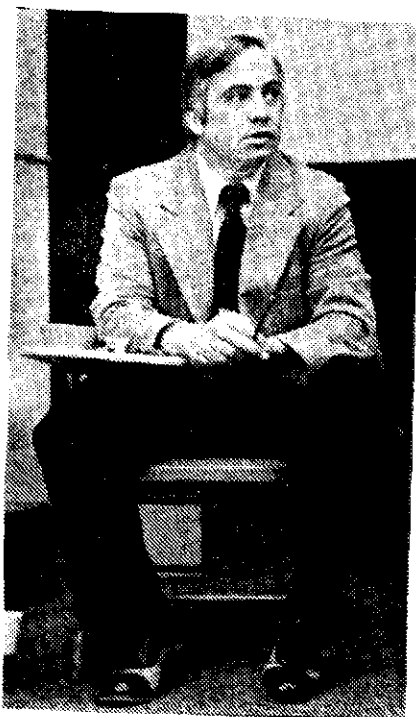
The Residential Division of ENCOR set an exhausting pace for the day-long tour. There is an ideology behind this system that had to be first understood. Questions of human dignity, the least-restrictive alternative, and what helps people develop were debated. There are strengths and weaknesses in the practical matters of implementing this plan. Parents of children in the Hamilton Core Residence took part. Jean Higgins and Betty Smith told plainly of the hopes they shared with the staff for their children. At the same time, they had misgivings about how such a system affected their sons. The task force, staff, and parents (joined by Patty Smith) looked at the system from varied points of view. It's from the fusion of ideas, in settings like this, that the plans of future services will, likely, be forged.



*Parent's concerns are of predominant interest to this NARC team and Patty Smith.*



*Eleanor Elkins looks for an explanation of ENCOR's efforts to answer questions facing her Task Force on Residential Services.*



*Ed Skarnulis (left), ENCOR Residential Director, leads a discussion of tailor-made residential alternatives.*

## WHERE To LIVE?

*Rick McDowell (right), President of Ohio Youth ARC, has joined with other collegians to set up an alternative residence in Akron.*



*Bob Schroeder (left), an ENCOR Residential Manager, and Gene Patterson (right) of the NARC staff join in the debate at the Hamilton Residence. Tom Higgins (center) ponders.*

## A PARTING TRIBUTE TO PIONEERS

By

Charles Galloway, Director, Educational Services for ENCOR

The end of March will mark the conclusion of my formal association with ENCOR, one that has lasted a little over five years. Many beautiful changes have developed in ENCOR's educational services during that period. I cannot let this time go by without giving special tribute to two of my long-time colleagues who have contributed immensely to services for youngsters with mental retardation and their families.

Linda Esterling has been with ENCOR for 4½ years. She started as a teacher at the West Developmental Center (since phased out), later was promoted to head teacher at South Developmental Center, and, most recently to be the Director of School Programs for ENCOR's school-age services. These promotions were not arbitrary. She has displayed, over the years, an ever-expanding ability to develop programs, teaching staff, and community resources. Under all circumstances, she has maintained a total commitment to the principle of normalization and the developmental potential of her students. Her drive has been felt throughout ENCOR.

Perhaps Linda's crowning achievement was the merger of ENCOR's Adolescent Program in Omaha with Ryan High School. The combination of Linda Esterling and Sister Patricia, the Principal of Ryan, has produced some outstanding accomplishments. Under their leadership, the staff and students of both ENCOR and Ryan are working together toward ever increasing integration of the retarded teenagers into the main body of the fantastic Ryan experience. This endeavor is just one of many in which Linda has shown us all what commitment and persistence can produce. Linda has recently resigned from ENCOR. Her energy and optimism will be missed.

My second tribute and thanks goes to Phyllis Chandler, another pioneer from whom I've learned so much. Phyllis started as a teacher at the Benson Developmental Center in 1969, while it was still operated by GOARC. Because of her organizational skills and eagerness to try new educational ideas, Phyllis was promoted to head teacher shortly after I came to ENCOR. Phyllis has maintained two professional commitments: to the development of quality early education opportunities for all children and to the inclusion of developmentally delayed children in those settings. Because of this dual commitment, she was the logical choice to head up the development of ENCOR's Coordinated Early Education Program (CEEP) which began three years ago to the month. Since last fall, ENCOR has provided services to all its pre-school aged children in regular early education centers, regardless of degree or multiplicity of handicap. There's no way to account here for all the details that have demanded her problem-solving potential over that period. The more dispersed the service is (and CEEP is highly dispersed throughout the region), the more complicated the management issues become. Phyllis has done an outstanding job with building and maintaining this complicated network.

During this last year, this network has been seriously threatened by funding upheavals forced on ENCOR. Very painful decisions and contingency plans have had to be designed and implemented. Phyllis has borne the brunt of much of this activity but has continued to be effective in her operation of CEEP. We've all had to maintain our optimism that the storm will pass and the young

children and their parents will not have to seek alternative services that unduly separate them from quality services available for all young children. When the cloud passes, Phyllis will deserve to share a large part of the credit for having established a model that touched so many lives in our community.

ENCOR, including the educational services, has attracted a great deal of national attention and positive regard during the last five years. It is unfortunate that many workers--such as Phyllis and Linda-- who stayed with this developing system through thick and thin do not also receive the recognition due them.

I'd like to conclude this tribute with a personal thanks to Linda and Phyllis for all they've taught me. This relationship has been a pleasure throughout.

\* \* \* \* \*

### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION OF THE SEVERELY/PROFOUNDLY HANDICAPPED FORMED

Recently the American Association for the Education of the Severely/Profoundly Handicapped (AAESPH) was incorporated as a non-profit organization. The president pro tem is Dr. Norris G. Haring (Director, EXPERIMENTAL EDUCATION UNIT, CDMRC, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.). The goals of the AAESPH are as follows:

1. To function as an advocate organization for the development and implementation of comprehensive, high-quality educational services at birth through adulthood in the public school sector.
2. To serve as a separate entity in advocating:
  - a. the development of relevant and efficient preservice and inservice teacher-training programs;
  - b. the development of highly specialized doctoral level, teacher training, research, and instructional design personnel.
3. To develop, refine, and disseminate training packages, instructional programs, and materials.
4. To facilitate parent involvements in all program services for the severely and profoundly handicapped.

Materials from the Association's information exchange are now available to members. (REHABILITATION LITERATURE, National Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults, 2023 W. Ogden Ave., Chicago, Illinois, 60612; Vol. 36, No. 10, October, 1975, p. 300.).

\* \* \* \* \*

"So long as we love we serve, so long as we are loved by others...we are indispensable; and no one is useless while he has a friend."

## TELEGRAMS OF SUPPORT

Many telegrams and letters concerning the ENCOR funding problem from all around the United States and Canada were sent to the GOARC office. After reading many of the letters and telegrams the following five telegrams were selected to give GOARC members an example of the input received:

Am very distressed to hear about another cutback in funds for ENCOR. During the research for two writing assignments for Readers Digest, I have met many of ENCOR clients and their families and know how desperately they need the program. Perhaps it takes an out of state person to see clearly how outstanding Nebraska's community programming is. I am hoping that Nebraska will show the rest of the country the way to go.

Sara D. Stutz, La Jolla, California

\* \* \* \*

Concerned persons throughout the nation have been watching the good things Nebraska did when they started to help retarded citizens achieve a full life in their community instead of limited life in an institution. Because of you, other states have been inspired to help their handicapped persons do things they never did before. Now, with a repeated barrage of financial cuts, the curtailing of vital community programs, has Nebraska begun to back down? On behalf of many handicapped citizens who need Nebraskas pioneering leadership, please don't back down now.

Robert Perske, Institute for the Development of Human Resources

\* \* \* \*

It has come to our attention that the ENCOR program faces a possible cutback in funding. The Council for Retarded Citizens of Jefferson County Kentucky is urgently concerned that this not happen. The future development of humane and quality community-based services to mentally retarded citizens not only in Nebraska but also throughout the nation depend heavily on the continued development of the ENCOR model we add our pleas to those with similar concern in Nebraska that any such planned funding cutback be reconsidered.

Council for Retarded Citizens of Jefferson County Kentucky, Inc.

\* \* \* \*

Very concerned with turmoil in developing loss of programs at ENCOR. Urge you to do everything you can to maintain national model with highest quality of programming possible. If quality and quantity of services at ENCOR are cut the national model loses its credibility and mentally retarded citizens throughout the U.S. suffer. Good Luck.

Denver Association for Retarded Citizens



# General Membership

## Award's Night

### May 6, 1976



Please make your nominations for GOARC Award Night. Help the Awards Committee by filling in one or more of the blanks below. A few brief remarks about your candidate would be appreciated.

#### AWARDS:

Organization of the Year \_\_\_\_\_  
(an organization which has been helpful in any way to retarded citizens)

Employer of the Year \_\_\_\_\_  
(someone who employs retarded citizens)

Outstanding Progress - Adult \_\_\_\_\_

Outstanding Progress - Youth \_\_\_\_\_

Distinguished Service Award \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer of the Year \_\_\_\_\_

Parents of the Year \_\_\_\_\_

Advocate of the Year \_\_\_\_\_

Outstanding GOYARC Member \_\_\_\_\_

Employee of the Year \_\_\_\_\_  
(someone who works for an organization providing service for retarded citizens)

Pilot Parent of the Year \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher of the Year \_\_\_\_\_

#### REMARKS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

PLEASE MAIL BY APRIL 9, 1976

GOARC  
140 South 40th St.  
Omaha, NE., 68131 -- 551-9450

## APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

6 Poverty and Mental Retardation Committee Meeting  
GOARC office  
140 South 40th Street  
10:00 A.M.  
Conference Room

7 Pilot Parent Steering Committee Meeting  
Ponderosa Steak House  
3609 North 90th  
11:30 to 1 P.M.

7 Pilot Parent Training  
Trinity Methodist  
16th and A  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
7 - 9 P.M.  
6 consecutive Wednesday's

12 Pilot Parent Training  
GOARC office  
7:30 P.M.  
"Normalization"  
Tom Miller  
Executive Director

15 GOARC Executive Committee  
Meeting  
GOARC office  
140 South 40th St.  
7:30 P.M.

19 Pilot Parent Monthly Meeting  
GOARC Office  
7:30 P.M.

20 GOARC Board of Directors  
GOARC Conference Room  
7:30 P.M.

20 Residential Care - H&LR  
GOARC office  
7:00 P.M.



A United Way Agency

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Omaha, NE. 68104

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Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens  
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MAY and JUNE



TONY ORLANDO

Honorary Chairperson for NARC

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GOARC Executive Committee: John Clark, President; Paul Tamisiea, 1st Vice-President; George Armstrong, 2nd Vice-President; Jan Novicki, Recording Secretary; Shirley Dean, Coresponding Secretary; Pat Jung, Treasurer.

GOARC Staff: Tom Miller, Executive Director; Amy Humphries, Administrative Assistant; Lynne MacDonald, Office Manager; Patty Smith, Coordinator, Pilot Parent Program; Carl Sullivan, Client Ombudsperson; Billie Cook, Coordinator, Poverty and Mental Retardation Program.

Editor: Pamela Kooiker

GOARC is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide a strong volunteer support organization for all mentally retarded citizens and their families by advocating for the rights, needs, and full development of these citizens of Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Annual membership: \$9.50, Life membership: \$100.00.



A United Way Agency

## CRISIS - GOOD AND BAD EFFECTS



In the April issue of the GOARC Gazette I discussed the urgency of ENCOR's financial crisis, and the efforts that GOARC members had made with the legislature and the Governor for additional dollars for ENCOR. I also listed on pages 10 and 11 of the same Gazette the proposed ENCOR program cuts that were to go into effect if ENCOR did not receive additional dollars.

The title of my article was "Were They Listening?" Fortunately they were, because during the week of March 22nd, the legislature voted affirmatively for an additional \$714,000 for community-based mental retardation programs (\$272,000 of which went to ENCOR) and the Governor wrote a letter saying that he would vote affirmatively for the bill. Thus the program cuts that were proposed for ENCOR in March will not have to be made.

Even though additional dollars were received for continuation of services, the ENCOR funding crisis did produce its tragedies. Numerous clients were worried about their future and were afraid they would have to be placed back at the Beatrice State Home. This was quite a crushing blow, especially since many of those clients had been out of the state institution for numerous years and had made a good adjustment to living in the community. Many parents were faced with the difficult task of having to look for other alternatives for their children including institutionalization. Parents, many of whom had been active when the services were established, had to again face the prospects of not having the needed programs and services for their child. And many ENCOR staff members who had been faced with several termination notices due to lack of funding decided to quit anyway and look for more stably funded positions. It was not an easy time for mentally retarded people, their parents or the staff.

The funding crisis also produced positive affects. I believe that in the future the ENCOR Governing Board and ENCOR administrators will take precautions to establish a more realistic budget at the beginning of the year. Services will not be started during the year unless there is a fairly good predictability of funding for the remainder of the year. Also, I think that parents whose children receive services from ENCOR will take a more active role in understanding the budget and getting involved in the planning of services and programs. ENCOR is now in the process of planning for this coming fiscal year, 1976 - 1977, and for the next five years. ENCOR staff have asked input from GOARC members. It is extremely important that parents, whose mentally retarded children receive services, get involved in planning so that those services are good quality services that will provide for their children's needs.

Thomas Miller, Executive Director

## THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW....

A PERSONAL NOTE... As editor of the Gazette, I have to make a lot of different decisions, like which pictures go in and which don't, where each article should go, and which articles to use. These decisions take time, but are generally fairly easy to resolve. My most difficult decision up to this point, was the one I had to make before writing this to you. I had to decide how best to say what needed to be said. It's hard to write or talk critically about anything, but it often has to be done. As editor, it's my job.

I don't know if you'll remember, but in the February Gazette I started a "campaign" for Mother's and Father's Day. I asked parents to send in pictures of themselves and their children for some picture pages. Up to this point in time, I have received four pictures, including my own, from a membership of approximately 700 (I realize this doesn't apply to all of you, because you aren't all parents). This is definitely a minority response! I was not really as angry as I was depressed to think of the apathy and the lack of support I received. I have rationalized it somewhat by remembering that it was your choice and I couldn't twist your arms to get you to send in pictures. I could only make what I thought (and others confirmed) was a good suggestion.

Since I did receive only four pictures, I've decided to postpone publication until our June/July issue. I'm still hoping for some response. The latest we can accept pictures is May 24th. I leave it up to you!

\* \* \* \* \*

NO GAZETTE IN JUNE... We won't be putting out a June issue of the Gazette due to summer vacations of some of the staff. The next issue you will receive will come out the first week in July. All parent/child pictures received will be included in that issue. If you want anything included in the July issue, the deadline will be June 4th. Mark this calendar if this pertains to you!

\* \* \* \* \*

FREE FILM... Don't forget the last free film at MCRI May 12th at 7:30PM. in the third floor conference room. "Rock-a-by-Baby", a film about techniques to measure mothering practices and the critical importance of touch and movement in the development of healthy children, will be shown at that time. Dr. Paul Pearson of MCRI will be the guest speaker.

The Editor

\* \* \* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* IF YOU'VE READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY, SHARE THEM WITH US! WE'D LIKE \*  
\* TO START A MONTHLY FEATURE OF SHORT BOOK REVIEWS. WILL YOU HELP? \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

# GOARC's MANY FACES...

(PICTURES TAKEN AT MARCH MEETING)



*Lynne MacDonald and Donna Reh sell raffle tickets - a fun job!*



*Some GOVARC members and their president Rick Duffer enjoy themselves.*



*Deb Bujarski has a serious discussion with another GOARC member.*



*Don Schell and John Pleiss seem to have had an interesting conversation.*



*Patty Smith and Ron Morrow talk over some concerns.*

COULD YOUR PICTURE BE HERE  
AFTER THE NEXT GOARC MEETING?  
ATTEND AND FIND OUT!

## I WENT OUT TO CATCH BIG FISH AND GOT MYSELF HOOKED

For a long time, I've been shaking my head "no", to worthy committees and groups working for mentally retarded. I'm sure I must have seemed selfish, but for the first 20 years of my son's 29, I spent a great many hours beating my head against stone walls, chasing after rainbow-colored schools, pursuing will-o-the-wisp programs that invariably eliminated us because my son was either too smart or too dumb, we were too rich, or we didn't belong to a minority group, I needed a change. I decided to go back to school and pursue some of the subjects that interested me and learn how to improve my style of writing.

Then it happened. I accidentally bumped into Pilot Parents. Confronted with an assignment to write and market a magazine article, I decided to stick with something I knew about -- mental retardation. I was weary of political battles, inadequate money appropriations, agencies that promise but don't deliver. From my past experience, I knew the loneliness, the unmet needs of parents of exceptional children and the hurts that professions have no medicine to heal.

It was logical to begin my interview with Patty Smith, the Coordinator. I'm not sure, but I have a hunch she knew she was dangling tempting bait. I resisted.

Then followed interviews with Alice Vollmer, Fran Porter, Lila and Don Schafer, Jane Sherratt, and a pediatrician who doesn't want to be mentioned by name. I was hooked. I had to attend a training session and see for myself what went on, what other parents had to say. At the first meeting, I broke loose from the rut in which I had been cemented -- the rut that made me feel lethargic, unwilling to burn my energy helping push progress that seemed to go at a snail's pace.

Basically, I guess, I'm a "people's" person. I like direct contact. Also, I'm an impatient soul. I like to see the results of what I'm doing this year, not next. So as a new trainee, I'm gung-ho to go. Whether I work with people or write, I want to be involved. If I can be of help to others, fine; even more I want to be back in an enthusiastic role working for a cause I believe in.

Alice Blackstone  
Pilot Parent

\* \* \* \* \*

### VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Do you have experience or training as a librarian? In May, ENCOR will be going through the information (reports, files, etc., not client records) which has been produced over the years. A cataloging system which will allow easy retrieval of information must be developed. If you would be interested in helping to design such a system during the month of May (you choose the hours), please call Camie Allen or Bonnie Shoultz at 444-6500. Your help would be deeply appreciated!



## NEW PILOT PARENTS RECEIVE CERTIFICATES

Take a group of newly trained Pilot Parents, add a group of "old, old", experienced Pilot Parents, put them in a lovely clubhouse like South Park Apartments, serve some wine and cheese, hand out eight certificates of training and you have a fantastic evening. These are the ingredients that produced such an evening at the April meeting of Pilot Parents.

Those who received certificates as Pilot Parents were Les and Ginny Sampson, Tom and Cheri Dean, Larry and Pat Herron, Bev Vazzano, Joan and Don Hoden (Council Bluffs), Alice Blackstone, and Margaret DeVore. Alice and Margaret are the mothers of adults and they added an extra amount of knowledge, interest, and zest to the group.

Our extra treat was the comment on Pilot Parent Training shared by Alice Blackstone. The article appears in this month's Gazette.



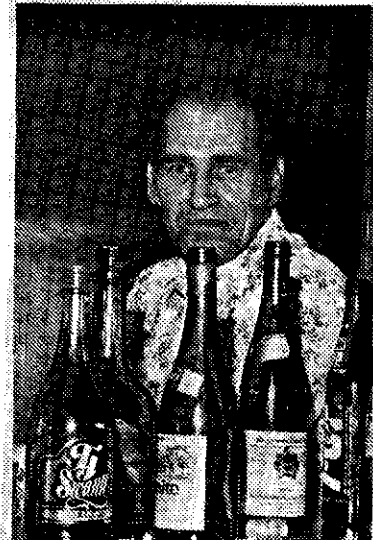
*Tom Dean & Larry Herron - proud Dad's - proud graduates!*



*Mary Morrow & Peggy Christiansen relax and discuss some important topics.*



*Margaret DeVore, Ginny Sampson, & Cheri Dean get together at their "graduation" celebration.*



*Chris Christiansen supervises the wine bottles for the graduation party.*

## CANDIDATES ANSWER GOARC QUESTIONNAIRES

The following letter was sent to all candidates for the office of county commissioner, local board of education candidates and state board of education candidates by GOARC's Legislative Action Committee.

Dear Candidate,

With elections coming up, we of the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens would like to find out where you stand on certain issues regarding mental retardation. Our organization, composed of over 700 parents of mentally retarded children, friends and professionals is committed to upgrading life for all mentally retarded people in the Douglas/Sarpy County area. We'd like to inform members of our organization where you, the candidate, stand on these issues so they may be able to make an intelligent decision when they go to the polls in May.

Could you please take a couple of minutes to fill out the enclosed form and return it in the enclosed stamped envelope by April 14th, because the results will be published in the GOARC Gazette.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in filling out the questionnaire.

There were 3 questionnaires sent with the following results:

### County Commissioners Questionnaire

- 1) Do you think mentally retarded persons have the same constitutional rights as do all other persons residing in Douglas County?
- 2) Would you be willing to provide the necessary funding to insure the constitutional rights of mentally retarded persons receiving community-based services in Douglas County?
- 3) Do you support for mentally retarded people the provision of adequate care and habilitation on an individualized basis such as to provide a maximum opportunity to realize normal living and to cope with their environment commensurate with their individual treatment needs and abilities? (As stated in the Horacek vs. Exon consent decree).
- 4) Would you advocate for an increase in county dollars in order to support programs for handicapped persons in Douglas County?
- 5) Would you advocate for mentally retarded persons integrating in all areas of their lives with other people in the Douglas County area - i.e., recreation programs, residential programs, public welfare programs, etc.?

The following candidates for county commissioner sent in their questionnaire. All answered the questions in the affirmative: Martin Jensen, Ann Abbott, Don R. Cunningham, Daniel C. Lynch, Harold L. Jones, Edward Kuhn, and John Guy.

#### State Board of Education Questionnaire

- 1) Do you support the provision of a free and appropriate education for all handicapped children between the ages of 5 to 21 and 3 to 21?
- 2) Do you believe children should be educated as close to their natural home as possible?
- 3) Do you believe all handicapped persons should have access to free vocational rehabilitation regardless of parents financial status?
- 4) Do you support contracting with private special education schools as a fulfillment of the child's constitutional right to an education when an appropriate program is not available in the public school?
- 5) Do you support complete funding of appropriate educational programs for handicapped children knowing these programs are costly?

State Board of Education, Second District James H. Monahan - all questions were answered affirmatively. State Board of Education, Third District Walter M. Thompson - checked all in the affirmative except for a free education for handicapped children between the ages of 3 to 5.

#### Local Board of Education

- 1) Do you believe handicapped children have the right to an appropriate education in the least restrictive setting?
- 2) Do you support the provision of a free and appropriate education for all handicapped children?
- 3) Do you feel education for all children should stress quality in addition to fulfilling other legal requirements?
- 4) Do you feel special education rooms should be clustered in one geographical area or dispersed around the district?
- 5) Do you support contracting with private special educational schools as a fulfillment of the child's constitutional right to an education when an appropriate program is not available in the public school?
- 6) Will you advocate for free childhood early intervention provided by the public school (education for handicapped children ages 3 - 5)?

OPS Board of Education, Subdistrict #2 -

Jay Allan Casebeer - negative response to #4,5, and 6

Bernard R. Gyger - all questions were answered affirmatively

OPS Board of Education, Subdistrict #4 -

Harvey Schneider - all questions were answered affirmatively

Raymond B. Cushing - all questions were answered affirmatively

Michael J. Sheridan - negative response to #6

Kay E. Hood - all questions were answered affirmatively

OPS Board of Education, Subdistrict #8 -

Stephen LaGreca - negative response to #5

Gaynelle Goodrich - all questions were answered affirmatively.

OPS Board of Education, Subdistrict #10

Patricia Ann Geringer - all questions were answered affirmatively

Paul C. Kennedy - all questions were answered affirmatively

Beverly P. Barnett - all questions were answered affirmatively

OPS Board of Education, Subdistrict #12 -

Janice K. Hass - all questions were answered affirmatively

Charles W. Sigerson, Jr., - all questions were answered affirmatively

Education Service Unit No. 3 -

Jack Noodell - all questions were answered affirmatively

Ralston School District No. 54 -

Frank G. Serrao - all questions were answered affirmatively

William Zersen - all questions were answered affirmatively

Percy J. Flott - all questions were answered affirmatively

Valley School District No. 33

Marti Johnson - negative response to #6

A space was left at the bottom of the questionnaire for the candidates to write a brief statement concerning their feelings on issues regarding handicapped people. Many of the candidates did add their comments and most were quite supportive of programs and services for mentally retarded people. Although space does not allow us to reprint these comments, they are available in the GOARC office for your perusal.

## D.D. COUNCIL ACCEPTS STATE PLAN

On April 14, the Council for the Developmentally Disabled (which funds programs for persons who are mentally retarded, cerebral palsied, epileptic, or have autism) voted unanimously to accept the DD State Plan for the next three years. This plan, for the first time, espouses the principle of normalization and requires that programs that are funded by DD be provided in the least restrictive alternative. The following describes the mission statement or purpose of developmental disabilities and the major objectives. We feel that this state plan is a document which can insure good quality services throughout Nebraska. If you would like to see the entire state plan, a copy is available at the GOARC office.

### Mission Statement

Encourage and support the continuation and development of services for persons who are developmentally disabled in Nebraska which are designed to meet individual needs and to provide opportunities equal to those of all citizens for the attainment of the least restrictive life style.

### Objectives

1. Encourage the formation of support and be responsive to a coalition of consumers and consumer representatives which will represent, advocate for and externally monitor services so that all services will be as socially and physically integrative as possible.
2. Encourage the formation of, support and be responsive to a coalition of service providers to facilitate joint planning and integrated delivery of quality services based on individual needs.
3. Study and recommend feasible, equitable funding methods to insure that people who need services receive them based upon their individual entitlement to them.
4. Promote the development of quality services which meet the vocational, residential, social, familial, and educational needs of all individuals who are developmentally disabled and facilitate their participation in such services.
5. Encourage and support the design and delivery of training programs, based upon the principles of social and physical integration to meet individual needs, whose components are community-oriented developmental models.
6. Provide coordinative planning and evaluation based upon the needs of individuals so that commitments are made which will facilitate social and physical integration of persons who are developmentally disabled.
7. Advocate for and monitor implementation of changes in the human services system so that the rights of all developmentally disabled citizens are protected.

## TONY ORLANDO COMES TO OMAHA



Gwen and Dave Powell, Frank Menolascino, Tony Orlando, Tom Miller and John and Mary Clark.

On April 20th, Tony Orlando came to Omaha for a concert at the Civic Auditorium. Tony, in addition to starring on his own weekly television show, is also the Honorary Chairperson for NARC. Tony grew up with a sister who was severely retarded who died about a year ago. Because of the experience he has had living with a retarded sister, Tony has been actively involved with NARC by donating his time and money (\$185,000). Tony has also had an interest in preventing mental retardation and has produced along with Dawn, his back-up group, an album that can be used by the local media. On the cover of the album it states: "Mental Retardation is

not a household word. And we don't want it to become one. Only you can prevent mental retardation in your family."

On April 20th, Tony had a press conference in Omaha prior to his concert. At that press conference Tony spoke eloquently about his interest in mental retardation. It was obvious that his retarded sister has influenced Tony's life regarding his sensitivity to mentally retarded people. He did a beautiful job at the press conference (his first one!) in conveying this sensitivity and in emphasizing his concern for the prevention of mental retardation.

That evening at the concert, Tony was a dynamic and entertaining performer. It is really gratifying to know someone like Tony who in addition to being known by many people publicly is also a true advocate for mentally retarded people.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM OFFERED

The Millard Public Schools are preparing a six-week summer school program designed to meet the needs of handicapped children in either regular or special classes. It is anticipated that the program will be held mornings at Norris Elementary School. Emphasis will be placed on academic skills. Special classes, with special class enrollment limited to 12 students per class. Availability of speech and language therapy will be determined by the expressed need of this service. Anticipated cost to parents is \$20.00. Contact Adeline Reis, Special Education Director, Millard Public Schools, for additional information; phone 895-9494.

## PARENT FEE SCHEDULE MODIFICATION POSSIBLE

On March 31, Bill Higgins and Tom Dean (GOARC parents) and Tom Miller went to discuss their concerns over the parent fee schedule with Mr. Jack Cleavenger, Director of the Department of Public Institutions. Mr. Cleavenger showed them an opinion from the State Attorney General's office dated October 17, 1975. In essence, this letter indicated that community-based programs had the responsibility to determine the cost of care and ability to pay for people in the community-based programs "inasmuch as these programs are independent agencies operating under interlocal agreements and are not a part of the Department of Public Institutions". In other words, the regional programs do not necessarily have to abide by the State Rules and Regulations regarding the fee schedule. Consequently, at the last ENCOR Governing Board meeting on April 15, the ENCOR Board approved GOARC parents working together with ENCOR's accounting department to come up with revised rules and regulations for ENCOR's fee schedule. Hopefully these revised rules and regulations will take into account the differences which exist between partial day community-based programs and 24-hour a day institutional care.

If any of you have input you would like to make regarding the revised rules and regulations, please call Tom Miller at the GOARC office - 551-9450.

\* \* \* \* \*

## FREE LECTURES - MAY 9

Planned Parenthood of Lincoln and the Nebraska Division of DD in cooperation with the Region III DD Training Grant and the University Extension Division proudly invites all NebARC members and their friends to hear Sol Gordon, Ph.D. internationally recognized author, lecturer and advocate for social and sexual growth for persons with a disability in his presentation "The Human Side of Human Sexuality (For Persons With A Developmental Disability)". Also John A. Aita, M.D., noted psychiatrist and neurologist will be presenting "Who Am I".

This program will be presented Sunday, May 9 from 2:30 to 5:00 in the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education Auditorium, 33rd and Holdredge Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska. THE COST WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE IS FREE!!

Sol Gordon's numerous books on sexuality and mental retardation will also be available.

Don't miss this unique opportunity.

\* \* \* \* \*

*"The more faithfully you listen to the voice within  
you, the better you will hear what is sounding outside."*



*Help Retarded Children  
Knights of Columbus*

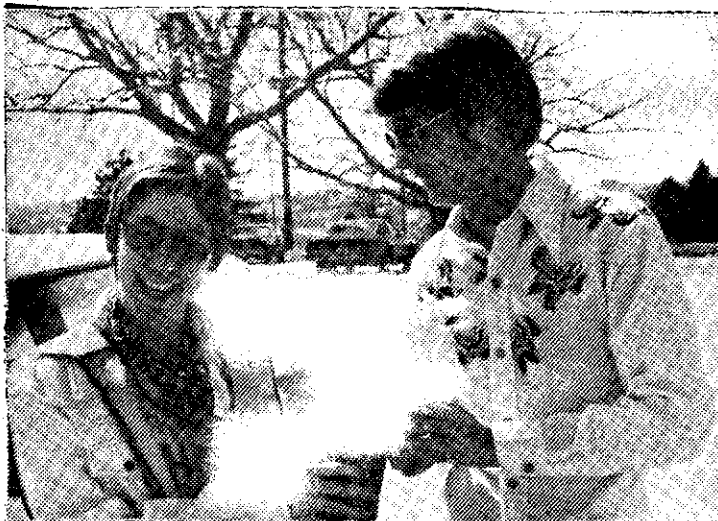


*Bob Gehrman works with the  
downtown crew.*

# TOOTSIE ROLL WEEK



*Volunteer sells to lunch hour  
crowd in downtown area*

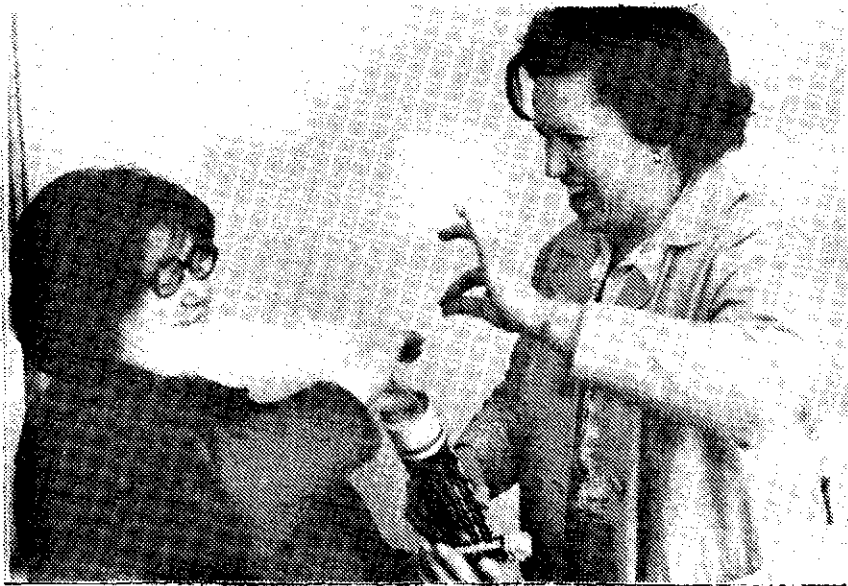


*Mary Foster really enjoys selling this  
tootsie roll to Steve Humphries!*



*Knights Volunteer smiles  
while he works - a job well  
done!*





*Fran Porter and Arlene Lee put money in the bank for the retarded.*



*Patty Smith holds out a tootsie to a passerby.*



*Billie Cook wants to make sure her jar is full.*



*Knight volunteer enjoys his "job" downtown.*

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED  
MAKE TOOTSIE ROLL WEEK  
A BIG SUCCESS.

(OFFICIAL RESULTS WILL APPEAR  
IN JULY'S ISSUE)

## ACTIVITIES SURVEY

GOARC is in the process of developing a program of recreational and social activities for retarded citizens. In March, 1976, activity forms were distributed through the school system as a survey measure to find out about the needs and interests of the citizens to be served. The purpose of these forms was not for specific registration to a program. Rather, GOARC's Activities Committee hoped to gather data necessary such as volunteer and transportation needs in order to initiate programs.

There are numerous activities and facilities already available within the community, but often their availability may be unknown or factors such as time, money, and transportation prevent an individual's participation. We feel that if a retarded citizen has an interest or desire to pursue an activity, all necessary resources should be provided in order to fulfill that goal.

If you have not yet turned in an activity form, please fill out the following form and return it to GOARC.

If you know someone who might be interested in participating in recreational activities, please refer them to the GOARC office. Also anyone who may be interested in serving as a volunteer to establish programs in your area should contact the GOARC office.

\* \* \* \* \*

### GOARC ACTIVITIES SURVEY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

If you go to school, where?

(If you live at an ENCOR facility, use that address.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of school)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

If you work at an ENCOR workshop, give location

Parents or Guardians Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Benson, Bellevue, etc.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

(If you live at an ENCOR facility, show manager's name above.)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check activity you're interested in.

ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES (weekly)

Open gym \_\_\_\_\_  
Swimming \_\_\_\_\_  
Gymnastics \_\_\_\_\_  
Basketball \_\_\_\_\_  
Volley ball \_\_\_\_\_  
Bowling \_\_\_\_\_  
Ice Skating \_\_\_\_\_  
Roller Skating \_\_\_\_\_

CRAFTS AND SKILLS (weekly)

Painting and Drawing \_\_\_\_\_  
Needlework \_\_\_\_\_  
Ceremics \_\_\_\_\_  
Musical Instrument \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES (monthly)

Movies \_\_\_\_\_  
Stage Shows \_\_\_\_\_  
Rock Concerts \_\_\_\_\_  
Carnivals and Fairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Basketball Games \_\_\_\_\_  
Football Games \_\_\_\_\_  
Baseball Games \_\_\_\_\_  
Hockey Games \_\_\_\_\_  
Picnics and Hikes \_\_\_\_\_

SCOUTING AND RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION  
(weekly)

Cub Scouting (ages 8-11) \_\_\_\_\_  
Boy Scouting (ages 11-21) \_\_\_\_\_  
Girl Scouting \_\_\_\_\_  
Religion Class \_\_\_\_\_

Check if a parent, friend or other volunteer/helper should accompany you for the activities checked.

Check if a parent, friend or other volunteer/helper should accompany you in addition to the adult leaders provided.

Transportation can generally be provided for:

Morning Afternoon Evening

Interested in Car Pool

Need Transportation

## GROWTH GROUP POTLUCK

The Growth Group at Catherine Williams had a luncheon on April 8. This was a "pot luck" feast that was a joint venture of all the parents. Each "Mom" brought their own special dish---fancy relishes, ham, meatballs & spaghetti, cinnamon rolls, delicious salads and vegetables. A number of the children were there to enjoy the party.

A new piloted parent from Lake Manawa came to the group for the first time. Her comments reflected the feelings of so many of the group - She said, "I was nervous going into a new group, but in a few minutes I relaxed and thoroughly enjoyed myself".

The group is having Jane Sherratt, of the Visiting Nurse Association, visit on April 22. This is going to be a question and answer session with Jane. We're looking forward to an interesting group that day.



*The Growth Group potluck is about to begin.*



*What a choice! Why not try them all!?*



*Catherine Williams & Mia enjoy the luncheon.*

## A FIRST FOR FLORIDA

The Florida Legislature has passed a "Bill of Rights of Retarded Persons", guaranteeing mentally retarded people the right to proper treatment, humane care, privacy, training and education. It is the first state in the nation to have a comprehensive Bill of Rights for mentally retarded people, according to Francis P. Kelley, Director of the Florida Division of Retardation.

The legislation says specifically that all mentally retarded people receiving services from the division shall have these rights:

- The right to religious freedom.
- The right to dignity, privacy, and humane care.
- The right to an individual program.
- The right to unrestricted communication.
- The right to receive education and training.
- The right to own property, especially clothing.
- The right to recreation and good physical fitness.
- The right to receive prompt and appropriate medical treatment.
- The right to be free from physical restraint.

The bill also calls for resident government with each residential facility initiating and developing a program of resident government to hear the views and represent the interests of all clients served by the facility.

The FARC President stated that "for the first time as a matter of statutory law, residents in institutions and community settings are given a right to limited residential self government."

\* \* \* \* \*

## EASTER SEAL SOCIETY SUMMER CAMP

Easter Seal's Camp Kiwanis is again offering a residential camping experience for all handicapped persons. The 1976 camping session are as follows:

June 27-July 3	Physically Handicapped	Ages 6-13
July 4-10	Mentally Retarded	Ages 15-24
July 11-23	Physically Handicapped	Ages 25-60
July 25-31	Mentally Retarded	Ages 8-14
August 1-13	Physically Handicapped	Ages 14-24
August 15-21	Mentally Retarded	Ages 25-60

If you would like to know more about the camping program or receive an application form, please call or write:

Dave Evans  
Easter Seal's Camp Kiwanis  
Box 14204  
Omaha, Nebraska 68114  
(333-9306)

## GOYARC: HERE COMES SUMMER

It's that time. Time to recognize the great things that have gone on thru this past year. A number of our GOYARC Youth will be recognized at their schools. GOARC will single out one special youth as GOYARC Volunteer of the Year.

It's time, too, to look ahead. GOYARC's recent elections have brought in a new set of leaders. Vicki Kelly follows Rick Duffer as the new youth President. March's Gazette featured Bev DeMay as Youth of the Month, and now she is our new Vice-President. Two years ago there was real concern among the youth because no brothers or sisters of retarded youth were part of GOYARC. Well Bev's sister Sue brought her aboard. A year ago, Steve Beem brought along his brother Chris who was just elected Secretary/Treasurer.

This is where our new leaders will take us over these next months:

### May 6 -- GOARC Awards Nite

No May 6th Tornado this year (hopefully). But there should be a storm of applause from the youth attending the GOARC Awards Nite. Be at the First Federal Savings (2101 South 42) at 7:30 to recognize GOARC's and Omaha's best.

### May 8 -- Spring Hike at Waubonsie State Park

Spring has really settled in the bluffs across from Nebraska City. Let's check it out! Leave from Crossroads at 3:30 PM. We'll return to the same place (under the triangle sign) by 10:30 that night. Bring dessert to share, and a dollar to chip in on the food we'll cook out. Dave Fisher (291-7047) is the adult advisor helping the organizers: Heidi Davies (391-0669) and Elaine Larson (392-2518).

### May 12 -- AWARENESS

Our regular Sunday meeting time falls on Mother's Day. So we'll try a Wednesday night this month. Anyone with an interest in talking about subjects of concern to this integrated young adult group is sure welcome to join us at St. Timothy's (9300 Dodge) at 7:00 PM. Anne Coordes is bringing the refreshments. Tim Norris (397-3315) and Pastor Charles Harman (571-1128) are pulling the program together.

### May 13 -- Culture Night

It's not often that GOYARC strives for culture, but in a sudden burst of "couth" we'll try. Come to the Omaha Playhouse to see "The Sunshine Boys". Jodi Nadler (397-7811) says the performance starts at 8:00PM. It's a dress-up night. Bill and Judy Peterson (393-8242) are the advisors. See you there!

### May 16 -- Wishy-Washy Car Wash and General Membership Meeting

GOYARC took on a special project in legal advocacy to help secure the rights of a mentally retarded teen in the community. We have to raise some dollars to pay the legal fees. Plenty of Sunday drivers might be willing to let us give them a bargain wash. We're planning to be in the area of Food City on N. 90th. There's a need for a General Membership meeting then. Hopefully it won't be as wishy-washy as the program title suggests. Rose and Mike White (551-6306), Vicki Kelly (397-1054) and Susan Swancutt (393-7859) will be there to hand out the buckets and assignments. More info later.

May 18 -- GOYARC member Kathy Variano graduates from Pickard School. Kathy will be starting at Benson Industrial Training Center soon. Today we'll join

in a party at the ENCOR Residence at 4910 Chicago.

May 20 -- Dominican High Graduation

CONGRATULATIONS long-time GOYARC member, Tim Norris! You made it.

May 23 -- Ryan High Graduation

Rick Duffer, GOYARC's past President, earns another big honor. He'll be heading to the University of Notre Dame in September on the Rink Foundation Scholarship. A number of his classmates were closely involved with the ENCOR Adolescent Education program at Ryan this year. Great year for both sets of students who have pretty well blended into one student body.

May 26 -- Westside High Graduation

A good part of the large crowd in Westside's Class of '76 are GOYARC's gang. Chris Fogle, Cindy Menolasino, Lori Borgen, Barb Greer, and Elaine Larson are some of our best. Well done!

June 4 and 5 -- NebYARC Youth Conference

The State Convention will be at Camp Pawnee in Columbus, Nebraska. Omaha's delegation ought to be as large and strong as in the past. Registration is \$16.00. Chris Beem (333-8169) has the info. His advisor is Pat Henry (397-3315). Plan ahead on this one. We haven't always agreed with the State youth. It's here where GOYARC can advocate for a program closer to the needs of youth.

June 12 -- Parent - Picnic - Potluck

Teresa Haugen (734-2707) and Georgie Bender (393-0358) have been asked to organize this opportunity for members and their folks to meet one another. Hope you can find Rockbrook Park...that's where it will be. Look for us in the vicinity of 94th and Paddock Rd. Bill and Judy Peterson (393-8242) will help as advisors. Come and bring your family.

June 13 -- AWARENESS

We're back to Sunday meetings 2:00 to 3:30, at St. Tim's. See you there!

June 24 -- Summer Dance

Anticipate that Rockbrook or a school nearby may let us use their parking lot for a dance. Starts at 8 and carries on till 11:00 PM. Cindy Menolascino (393-4994) and Steve Beem (333-8169) are pulling this together. More info later.

June 27 -- General Membership Meeting

Meet at the First Federal Savings and Loan Bldg. just south of Dodge on 84th Street.

GOYARC's fund-raiser is coming. We'll get the word to you as best we can. Help is needed all summer long. Keep in touch with the new officers.

See you often this summer!

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MAY

- 12 Mothers' Coffee for Pilot and Piloted Parents  
South Park Apartments, 5009 A Street  
10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
- 12 Fund Raising Meeting, 7:30 P.M., GOARC Office
- 13 GOARC Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 P.M., GOARC Office
- 18 GOARC Board of Directors, 7:30 P.M., GOARC Office
- 19 Honey Sunday Meeting, 7:30 P.M., GOARC Office
- 23 Ice Cream Social for Pilot and Piloted Parents  
Don and Jane Grinn's  
9206 Hickory, Omaha

## JUNE

- 10 GOARC Executive Committee meeting  
7:30 P.M.  
GOARC Office
- 15 GOARC Board of Directors  
7:30 P.M.  
GOARC Office

COVER PHOTO BY: Robert Coleman



A United Way Agency

Shirley Dean  
4842 Sahler #107  
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# **the GOARC GAZETTE**

Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens  
140 South 40 St., Omaha, NE. Ph: 551-9450



Pilot Parent Picnic (story page 5)

**SEPTEMBER 1976**

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Editor: Pamela Kooiker

GOARC is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide a strong volunteer support organization for all mentally retarded citizens and their families by advocating for the rights, needs, and full development of these citizens of Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Annual membership: \$9.50



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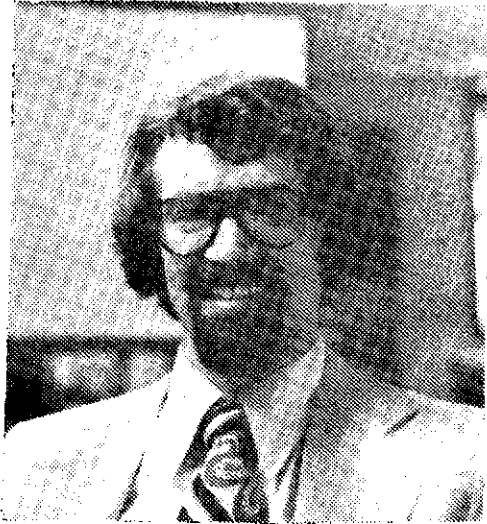
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## KANGAROOS AND WOMBATS



The reason I've chosen such an unusual and unGOARC-like title is because it brings to mind a person from Australia who visited GOARC and ENCOR programs recently. This person, Mrs. Ethel Temby from Melbourne, Victoria, Australia came to Omaha for 17 days to visit programs and services and to talk to parents and mentally retarded persons.

In her own country, Mrs. Temby is the volunteer executive officer of the Victorian Association for the Retarded and a member of the Premier's Committee on Mental Retardation. As the mother of an 18 year old mentally retarded son with Down's Syndrome, she has personally undergone many of the typical trials and stages of development which parents of handicapped children must encounter. She had to convince her doctor that her child should receive medical surgery that

any other child would have received. Then, she went through the agonizing decision of placing her baby in a state institution, because the doctor whom she implicitly trusted told her that institutionalization was a necessity for these children. Weeks went by before she again visited her child, because she was told that it would be very difficult on her if she went to visit him frequently. "Try to forget him", is what she was told. After 5 weeks she could no longer stand the decision to totally forget her child. So, she went to visit him quite frequently and because of her belief that things could always be better, became an activist for program changes within the institution. She helped to start a parent organization and soon became its leader in attempting to make positive changes in the institution. She took her child, Rowan, home when he was 14 after she had finally found a school in Melbourne that would accept him.

Ethel came to Omaha because she was awarded a Churchill Fellowship, a grant which is allowing her to see programs and services for mentally retarded people throughout Europe and the United States. During her stay in Nebraska she was able to see many programs in Omaha and Lincoln, and also met with and talked to many GOARC members. Her enthusiasm, and her dedication to bettering services for mentally retarded people in her own country was very contagious. She re-inspired many people while she was here, and we feel she gave at least as much as she received.

She is taking the information which she received from Nebraska and hopes that she can establish community-based services for mentally retarded people in Victoria, Australia. Because of her drive and ambition, she should be able to accomplish this goal.

In addition to discussing mental retardation, I also had the opportunity to talk to her about many other things. In fact, I spent numerous evenings and early mornings talking to her. Because she has traveled throughout her own country and in other countries around the world, she had many interesting stories to tell. Among other things, she told me about her experiences raising and mothering a baby kangaroo and a baby wombat.

Ethel indicated to me that she really enjoyed her stay in Nebraska and has made many friends here. My wish for her is that she is successful in spreading the word in her country about community-based services and that she succeeds in establishing similar programs in Australia.

## READY TO LEARN FROM NEBRASKA

The following excerpts are from a letter written by Mrs. Ethel Temby (see Executive Director's article - page one) to Governor Exon on her impressions of her 17 day GOARC/ENCOR tour:

I am the holder of a Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship and also a member of the Premier's Committee on Mental Retardation in the State of Victoria, Australia. My tour overseas to study support services for families with a mentally retarded member to enable them to maintain their family unit in as normalized a manner as possible, and also to study those services that assist the adult handicapped by retardation to live within the community which is his natural setting, has been made possible through my Fellowship."

It is in your state and through your government agency called ENCOR that I have found a kind of leaven that could, if it can continue as it has developed, be the means of raising the standards of living and the quality of life for retarded citizens not only throughout the United States but in many other countries around the world.

I earnestly hope that the economic circumstances that presently straiten the services and programs of human services developed during the past eight years in Nebraska will soon be relieved. This is my hope not only because it is disturbing to see a reduction in services to those citizens least able to act or claim on their own behalf, but because the momentum of the movement that has brought humanity and dignity into the human services of your State is being maintained by the idealism and enthusiasm of young people prepared to put their ideals into practice, with many hours of thought and energy and personal involvement far beyond what is customarily given, or required, in any paid position. At ENCOR I was conscious of a spirit and a commitment customarily exuded only by highly motivated volunteers.

In my opinion you have in your State something far more valuable than a new gold mine. Please accept my congratulations and my plea that you will encourage and extend the capacity of ENCOR to expand so that you may develop teams to visit and counsel in other places, publicize the structure of programming and the procedures for monitoring services, and so aid in the cultivation elsewhere of the new dimension in human dignity I found in your State.

When future histories of social progress are written it could be that ENCOR in the nineteen-seventies in Nebraska will be seen as the cornerstone on which the structure of human services in all advanced countries will have been built.

I hope that my State, in Australia, will be ready to learn from Nebraska. We have a long way to go.

## SINCERE THANKS TO PAM

During the past year, Pam Kooiker has been the editor of GOARC's Gazette. We, the staff and members of GOARC, would like to thank her for the work that she has done this past year in making the Gazette interesting and informative. Pam will be leaving the Gazette (reluctantly, she says) in order to teach French and English full-time at the Omaha Public Schools. She has indicated her continuing interest in the Gazette, however, and has promised to write articles when she has the time.

We would like to welcome Cathie Campbell, whose brief autobiography is included below, who will be our new Gazette editor.

Thanks to Pam for her past year of dedication and to Cathie for her acceptance of the editor's post!

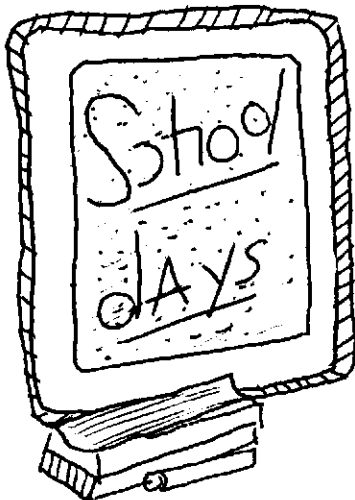
\* \* \* \* \*

## NEW EDITOR

You may have noticed a change in the GOARC Gazette this month: it is a lot briefer and there are a lot fewer pictures. Next month you will see another change. There will be a new editor. My name is Cathie Campbell, and I am presently involved in teaching Freshman English at U.N.O. Actually, I became interested in teaching at BAARC, the Brockton Area Association for Retarded Citizens, in Massachusetts. I taught in the kindergarten there, and also helped out in the sheltered workshop. Since then, I have settled in Omaha and have earned an M.A. in English at U.N.O. And so now I am going to attempt the job of editing the Gazette. I hope that you will all feel free to call on me with any problems that may arise, and that I may ask the same from you. My telephone number is 345-0245. See you all next month!

\* \* \* \* \*

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



DATE: SEPTEMBER 2, 1976

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: FIRST FEDERAL OF LINCOLN - HOMESTEAD CENTER  
2101 SOUTH 42ND STREET

School days are upon us once more and in keeping in tune with the season, our meeting will be centered around various school programs. Our guests will be public school special education administrators. Please plan on attending this informative meeting. See you there!

## UNO SPECIAL GRADUATION

Thursday, August 12, some proud parents had an opportunity to attend the "graduation" ceremonies of approximately 40 students from a summer speech clinic at UNO. The kids and clinicians all wore blue t-shirts labelled "UNO Top Cats - Language Clinic". (These were the compliments of the UNO Special Education Department). What a delightful scene it was to see everyone decked out in their new shirts, singing and demonstrating the skills that they had acquired in the five weeks of summer clinic.

This innovative opportunity was the "brain child" of Dr. Jean Muncy of the UNO Speech Department. (Her foster son, Chris, was one of the students.) She is beginning plans to offer this program again this fall during the school hours and also, possibly, after school.

Each child that attended this year's clinic was presented a special "blue ribbon award". Among the GOARC kids that were present were Chad Kooiker, Kirsten Ellison, Jane Smith, and Jimmy Wright. Chad, Pam and Glenn Kooiker's son, was named "Best Bear Hunter", Kirsten, daughter of Reverend and Mrs. Ellison, was named "Best Rester", Louise Wright's son, Jimmy was "Best Line Leader", and Jane Smith, Roger and Patty Smith's daughter, was awarded the "Best Namer". (In three weeks, Jane knew the names of all the students and all the clinicians.)

Needless to say it was a fun hour!

\* \* \* \* \*

## FAMILIES PLAY TO GROW

Recently letters were sent out to various places throughout the country that offer recreation programs considered exemplary by NARC. Some information from the Michigan ARC was received which may prove to be helpful to many families. The name of their program is "Families Play To Grow", which was created and sponsored by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. The purpose of the "Families Play To Grow" program is to give parents ideas on games which their family would enjoy doing together. A brief glance at the material indicates that it may be very helpful for families to have, not only for their handicapped children, but for the benefit of members of the family. People who are interested in receiving a "Families Play To Grow" kit can write either to: "Closer Look", Box 1492, Washington, D.C., 20013, or to: Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, 1701 "K" St., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20006. In the kit you will receive: a family play manual, a family play calendar, "I'm A Winner" chart and 10 family play guides to family sports and games. This kit may be well worth the time it takes you to send for it.

\* \* \* \* \*



## PILOT PARENT PICNIC

July is a favorite month for Pilot Parents. This is when they have their annual picnic. And what an event it turned out to be this year!

The scene was Cooper Farm and July 19th was the date. It was a cool summer evening with lots of people on hand, lots of food to devour (all totalled we made 15 gallons of drink and coffee), and lots of good picnicking. A couple of highlights of the evening was an enormous volley ball game, the breaking of a pinata that resembled Big Bird, and some dedicated horse shoe playing.

Thank you to Peggy and Chris Christiansen and their family for all the preparations for the picnic and for making the pinata. Also, thanks to all the Pilot Parents who helped at the picnic and who arranged transportation for their piloted parents and families.



*Picnics are such a racket!*



*Kyle Simpson gets a lift from Dad (Jim) while Mom (Mary Jo) gets help finding the food from Dick Bauer.*



*Jerry Volcheck and Kevin Schafer know what fun is!*

## BORN THIRTY YEARS TOO SOON ?

By Alice Blackstone

There are times when I'm sure I was "born 30 years too soon"; others when the timing seems perfect.

For example, consider the "before" and "after" team of Blackstone and Dean - unlike as sugar and salt, complimentary as bacon and eggs. Both have experienced shock, desperation, loneliness - all those bad feelings that follow diagnosis. Through frustration we've come to realize that understanding for ourselves is as essential as services for our children; that the most effective support comes from parents "who have been there."

Cheri Dean got help soon after diagnosis through Pilot Parents. I searched for years.

So why does this make us a good team? We found out recently when we talked to a class studying community services for the handicapped at UNO. I described what it was like before Pilot Parents; Cheri took care of the after. Together we left the impression that Pilot Parents services parents a little like the North star aided the old-time mariners. It helps them find and keep direction.

Since it was the first time for both of us, we were slightly apprehensive. But we decided, "what the heck? We know more than they do." We played it cool and invited questions. Nobody went to sleep and some lingered on after class.

I don't expect Cheri can fully appreciate my joy and hope when I encounter students intent in working with the handicapped or professionals willing to listen to parents. Thirty years ago that wasn't the fashion.

It's really not so bad to be "born 30 years too soon," especially if a teammate turns up 30 years later to help you pull the load.

\* \* \* \* \*

## A NEW RECIPE

by Janie Grimm

Start with a group of young SWEAT students intermingle with a group of Pilot Parents (the Deans', Gartners', Schafers', and Grimms'). Add a dash of Australian culture and the gracious person of Mrs. Ethel Temby. Stuff with grilled hamburgers, spaghetti, baked beans, potato salad, and more goodies and you have the recipe for a great evening put together by master chefs, Tom and Jane Upton, at their home on Thursday evening, July 1, 1976. The informal event was given so that the SWEAT students might have a chance to sit and visit and learn first hand what it is like for parents after they hear that their child will never be "normal". It was an evening exchanging ideas, point-of-view, and a general letting go for all in attendance. The students learned just what Pilot Parents is all about and how important it is for new parents to talk with others who have been there and can relate to all these emotions that they are feeling. The evening ended with Jane Upton and Don Grimm serving delicious homemade ice cream "soup". (No one seems to know what went wrong, but everyone had a good laugh and enjoyed themselves all the same!)

\* \* \* \* \*

## FEELINGS

### PLEASE REMEMBER ME By Louise Wright (Pilot Parent)

You have eyes, but you will not see.  
You have ears, but you will not hear.  
You have arms, but you will not embrace.  
You have legs, but you will not run.  
You have a heart, but you will not feel.



As you walk through life please remember me for:

I have eyes but cannot see.  
I have ears but cannot hear.  
I have arms but cannot embrace.  
I have legs but cannot run.  
I have a heart and I can feel the pain of rejection, pity, prejudice and hatred that comes my way. So please, please remember me today with love and kindness as you travel on your way.

\* \* \* \* \*

### OUR LITTLE STEPPING STONE By Lydia Hermoen (JoAnn Volcheck's Mother)

When my grandson was born, I knew his parents were the "special ones." God must wear a smile, because this child has brought so much to all of us. Every progress he makes delights every member of his family. All has not been easy - there are the times spent in the hospital, doctor's offices, etc., but I know the GLOW this child emanates erases much anxiety. I am so very lucky to see this family grow together and know my grandson contributes a large share.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A BEGINNING

I have been editor of the Gazette for one short year, and now I must turn it over to someone else. I'll be teaching full-time next year, and with my family to take care of, I feel I must leave my position as editor. I regret this because it has been fun, but most of all because it has been a beginning. I made new friends and learned things that have changed me and helped me to grow.

Even though I'll no longer be editor, GOARC and the Gazette are now a part of me. Thank-you for the beginning!

Pam Kooiker  
Editor

## SHORT TAKES

INTERESTED BABYSITTERS... Available, at the GOARC office, is a list of people who have shown an interest in babysitting. If you have a need for this service or wish to babysit yourself, call Donna at 551-9450.

\* \* \*

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS... has received a grant from the State Department of Education through Federal funds under Title VI, Part B, to fund a program for vocational training of trainable and severely handicapped students, ages 18-21. For more information, contact the Special Education Office, Omaha Public Schools, 554-1111.

\* \* \*

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 6... This amendment will allow the public schools to contract for those children whose needs are best provided in facilities not wholly owned or operated by the local districts. This amendment fulfills the original intent of LB403 as well as allowing the State of Nebraska full compliance with S6 (the 1975 federal Education for the Handicapped Act). For more information, and to volunteer your support, contact Judy and Gene Nichol森, Chairpersons, "Parents for all Handicapped Children" at 334-9303.

\* \* \*

SPEECH CLINIC... will resume again this fall at UNO. This clinic is for children and adults who need speech therapy. Call the Special Education office at 554-2201 after September 1 to arrange for a diagnostic evaluation. This service is provided by student clinicians and is free.

\* \* \*

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION CLASSES... Registration will be held on:

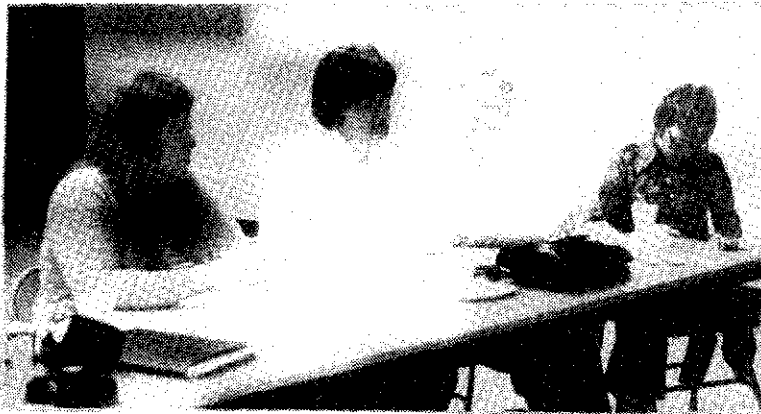
September 13th at Burke High School  
September 14th at South High School  
September 15th at Benson High School (6:30-8:30PM)

A detailed flier and registration form will appear in the September 5th, World Herald. This will give information regarding class schedules, registration times, fees, etc. Classes will begin September 27th. For any further questions or information, you may contact Omaha Public Schools Adult Education Program at 554-1142.

\* \* \*

SPECIAL WORDS OF THANKS... go to Dave Fisher, long time member and GOYARC advisor, for his invaluable assistance at GOARC's food booths in the Old Market. If you should ever have a catering need you can call him at Distinguished Catering by Fisher, 592-4530.

\* \* \*



*Patty Smith enlightens Ann Mulligan, Leighton Goodrich and Bonnie Shoultz on the Pilot Parent Program.*



*A break produces serious discussion between Don Schell and George Armstrong.*

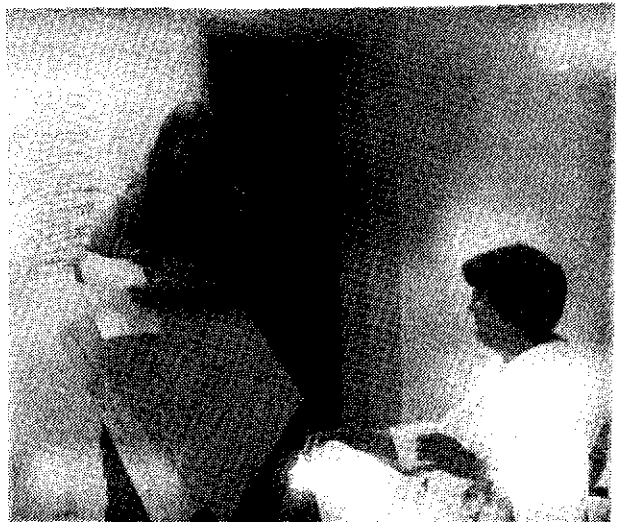


*Tom Dean, Carl Sullivan, and Judy McGuire write down what they feel GOARC's priorities should be for 1977.*

## GOARC'S BOARD PLANS PRIORITIES FOR '77



*Leighton Goodrich & John Clark "laugh it up" during an afternoon break.*



*Ann Mulligan, guide for the priority setting, holds the final products while Patty Smith watches.*

## WHEN YOU MEET A HANDICAPPED PERSON...

1. First of all remember that the person with a handicap is a person. He is like anyone else, except for the special limitations of his handicap.
2. A disability need not be ignored or denied between friends. But until your relationship is that, show friendly interest in him as a person.
3. Be yourself when you meet him.
4. Talk about the same things as you would with anyone else.
5. Help him only when he requests it. When a handicapped person falls he may wish to get up by himself, just as many blind persons prefer to get along without assistance. So offer help but wait for his request before giving it.
6. Be patient. Let the handicapped person set his own pace in walking or talking.
7. Don't be afraid to laugh with him.
8. Don't stop and stare when you see a handicapped person you do not know. He deserves the same courtesy any person should receive.
9. Don't be over-protective or over-solicitous. Don't shower the handicapped person with kindness.
10. Don't ask embarrassing questions. If the handicapped person wants to tell you about his disability he will bring up the subject himself.
11. Don't offer pity or charity. The handicapped person wants to be treated as an equal. He wants a chance to prove himself.
12. Don't separate a disabled person from his wheelchair or crutches unless he asks it. He may want them within reach.
13. When dining with a handicapped person, don't offer help in cutting his food. He will ask you or the waiter if he needs it.
14. Don't make up your mind ahead of time about the handicapped person. You may be surprised at how wrong you are in judging his interests and abilities.
15. Enjoy your friendship with the handicapped person. His philosophy and good humor will give you inspiration.

## A SPECIAL GIFT

By Pam Kooiker

Chad was our first child and the thought never entered our minds that he wouldn't be perfect, but he wasn't. Chad is now five and a half. He's Down Syndrome -- which means he has 47 chromosomes instead of 46.

We weren't immediately told there was something wrong. He was very wobbly in the neck, but he had been early so that was explainable. It was frightening when they asked to do blood tests of the three of us. What could be wrong? We were later told they had been genetic tests because Chad's pediatrician had noticed some of the "signs" of Down's -- flatter face, weak muscle tone, short little finger with only two joints, and a continuous line across his palm.

Being told Chad was retarded was the bottom. How could it be? I kept denying it to myself. It had to be a mistake. They were wrong!

We received counseling and were told that it might be better, since we were so young, if we were to put Chad in an institution. We were lucky really. We found out about Chad's retardation right away and were given our options. We chose to keep our "special gift".

Chad walked at about one and a half. He was very active and even said some short words. Some people would try to be helpful by saying things like, "There's nothing wrong with him!" or "He seems normal to me." I think that hurt more than if they had just accepted Chad in faith and love...as he was.

Chad entered a special pre-school for the mentally retarded and handicapped when he was two and a half. He went half days for one year. He loved every minute of it and had fantastic teachers. He learned to ride a tricycle, to turn somersaults, to sort things by color and size, and to help himself eat, potty, dress, and play.

When we found out we were coming to Omaha, I was frightened and worried about taking Chad out of his school. I didn't want to stop a good thing. Then I heard about ENCOR.

Within three months after we arrived, Chad was in one of the integrated pre-schools. The socializing he did was great. He really could interact with kids -- "normal" kids. Academically he moved more slowly, but he moved ahead nonetheless. This last May was Chad's last CEEP experience -- we both grew from it. Myself from the team meetings and the work we all did together and Chad from his "classroom" life.

I gave up **denying** Chad's retardation a long time ago. I've come to accept him as the "special gift" he is, and thank God for him every day. I wish each one of you could experience what I have. I can guarantee one thing...people would be much less egocentric and impatient. Chad has a contagious kind of love -- something we all need!

# GOYARC

Well, here it is! Everyone's favorite part of the Gazette. Some of this news might be a little out-of-date, but I'm supposed to keep you informed, so that's what I'll try to do.

A big event in GOYARC's summer was the GOARC fund-raiser. Youth not only worked at the booth, but also made decorations, helped prepare the food and pitched in with the clean-up. A high spot in the week-end was when Rick Duffer and Heidi Davies made spectacles of themselves by dressing up as clowns to draw business! I'm not sure if it worked or not, but we had fun doing it.

July held a square dance, a swim party, and the State YARC Convention (July 30, 31, and August 1). The convention was held at Camp Luther, near Columbus, Nebraska. Thirteen GOYARC members were in attendance for the week-end event. We attended workshops, meetings and had fun meeting youth from all over Nebraska who had the same interests that we did.

During August there have been several DMU projects, with more coming up. Thanks to Chris Fogle, this project seems to be a big success. August 11, GOYARC emerged victorious after a cageball game with the ZTA Sorority. Our annual summer bash was held August 18. A round of applause should go to Rose and Mike White, who were the advisors for this event. They really pulled the night together.

Several of our members will soon be leaving for college. GOYARC would like to thank you all for the hours of time you've given us and to wish you all luck in the future.

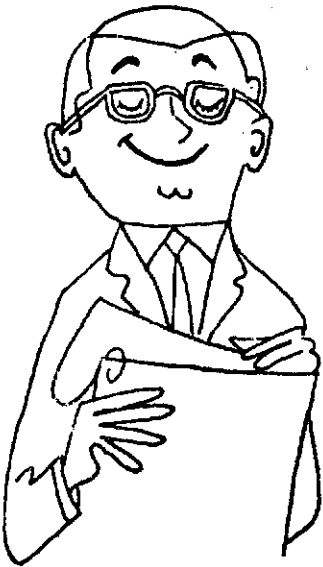
I hope that for next month we can get reports from some of our committee chairpersons. They are doing some fantastic things in their committees and their achievements are well worth telling about.

Anybody with ideas for next month or just and ideas at all for our contribution to the Gazette, get ahold of me at 391-0669, or my advisor, Pat Henry (397-3315).

*Heidi Davies*

Heidi Davies  
Publications Chairperson





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- |       |                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2     | General Membership Meeting, First Federal Savings of Lincoln, 2101 S. 42nd St., 7:30 P.M.                                                            |
| 7     | NebARC Legislative Action Committee meeting, 10:00A.M., at the NebARC office, 620 North 48th St. Suite 318.                                          |
| 7     | GOARC Executive Committee Meeting, GOARC office - 140 South 40th Street, at 7:30 P.M.                                                                |
| 15-18 | GOARC visitors, Mr. and Mrs. Gohli from Norway's services for mentally retarded citizens.                                                            |
| 21    | GOARC's Board of Director's meeting, GOARC office 140 South 40th Street, at 7:30 P.M.                                                                |
| 23    | Pilot Parent's go to South Sioux City to visit the Northeast Nebraska Assoc. for Retarded Citizens to make a presentation to them about their group. |
| 27    | Tentative date for Pilot Parent training session.                                                                                                    |

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ENCOR  
885 S 72nd St.  
Omaha, NE 68114



**OCT**  
**1976**

Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens

**If your child is handicapped, he needs all the help he can get.**

**You, the parent, can help him the most by**

- **Having positive attitudes about him and his abilities;**
- **Knowing what services he may need, and where to obtain them,**
- **Knowing how to help him learn at every opportunity.**

**The handicapped child can overcome, if you teach him how.**

For more information call:

**Pilot Parent Program**

Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens  
140 South 40th Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

**551-9450**

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## CANDIDATES SPEAK OUT



GOARC's next General Membership Meeting will be on Monday, October 18, 7:30 P.M. at First Federal Savings of Lincoln, 2101 South 42nd Street in Omaha. At this meeting, GOARC's Legislative Action Committee has invited the candidates who are running for the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, the Board of County Commissioners, and the State Legislature to address the membership with one question that has been given to them. This question is "What do you see as the three most important issues affecting mentally retarded citizens, and what would you do in regard to these three areas?"

The Legislative Action Committee felt it was important to give the candidates an open-ended question for several reasons. First of all, this question will not be influencing the candidates' responses. On other questionnaires sent out to the candidates, very specific questions regarding constitutional rights of mentally retarded citizens and support of additional funding for community-based programs and special education programs were asked. Very few candidates are honest enough to oppose specific direct questions. By asking candidates a question that cannot be answered "yes" or "no", we are hoping to elicit an honest and individual response. Secondly, candidates must do some preparation prior to the meeting before they can choose what they feel are the three most crucial issues affecting mentally retarded citizens. Research into the issues will be educational for the candidates and will expose them to the needs that retarded people have.

I am hoping that as many of you as possible will be able to attend this general membership meeting. Typically, this meeting would be held in November, but because of the importance of knowing where candidates stand on mental retardation issues, we felt it would be best to have this meeting prior to the November 2 elections.

Voting is a right which has been given to us so that we can choose who our lawmakers will be. Because there are so many issues directly affecting the lives of mentally retarded citizens, our candidates should be people who will respond to those issues and will propose laws that will better mentally retarded persons.

Please try to attend this General Membership Meeting. If you do not come, you will be limiting your knowledge of where the candidates stand on issues that should definitely concern you. This could be the most important General Membership Meeting of the year, since we will be living with the candidates that we choose for the next several years.

Thomas Miller,  
Executive Director

# LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

## A POSSIBLE NEW LAW -- DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

### AMENDMENT VI - Part 1

The following information was prepared by the Nebraska Legislative Council in August of this year to explain the rationale behind Amendment VI, Part 1. Please read it carefully so you can be well informed of the issues involved, when you go to the polls to vote on this amendment on November 2nd.

The background of this proposed amendment begins with the enactment of LB 403 by the Legislature in 1973. Briefly, this act mandated school districts in the state to offer special education programs for handicapped children. These programs could be provided by the districts themselves, or they could contract for them with other school districts, educational service units, or offices of mental retardation. The state would then reimburse the districts for ninety percent of the excess costs they incurred in providing these special education programs for handicapped children. Included within the coverage of such programs would be children who were physically handicapped, mentally retarded, emotionally disturbed, and had specific learning disabilities.

In enacting LB 403 the Legislature intended that all children in the State, regardless of their physical or mental capacity, receive the meaningful education program to which they were entitled. Those unable to benefit from the regular educational program were now to receive special programs tailored to their particular disabilities. It was

recognized that a wide variety of sources would have to be utilized to make this goal a reality.

Among these sources would be the programs offered by a number of private schools, institutions, and organizations in the state. The question was whether a school district could contract with any of these for the provision of special education services. In case the original legislation did not authorize such contracting, an amendment was adopted to the bill in 1973 (LB 863) which was intended to make it clear that it was permissible. However, a subsequent opinion from the Attorney General held that this amendment did not change the original provision authorizing school districts to contract only with governmental institutions of the state.

The more serious question, however, was whether the state constitution permitted districts to contract with private institutions. The Education Committee of the Legislature made an inquiry of the Attorney General and held a meeting with a member of his staff. The Committee was informed that an amendment to the constitution would be required to enable contracting with private entities. Later, in an opinion to the Commissioner of Education, the Attorney General said that payments for contracts with private institutions would be in violation of Section 11 of Article VII. The bill proposing the amendment now under discussion was the result.

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This proposed change would specifically authorize the Legislature to permit school districts to contract with private institutions for the provision of services which would be beneficial to handicapped children. The proposal also states, however, that such services must be nonsectarian in nature.

The proponents of this proposed amendment pointed out that the public schools and institutions cannot in every case provide the services required by certain handicapped children, whether because of budgetary restrictions or the absence of the necessary specially-trained personnel. There are also many cases, it was said, where private institutions will accept certain handicapped children which public schools or institutions will not. Some of the children with multiple handicaps fall into this category. Thus, the inability to contract with these private institutions simply results in some handicapped children not being served at all.

The explanatory statement to be included on the ballot will read as follows:

A vote FOR this proposal will enable the Legislature to enact legislation providing that the state or any political subdivision may contract with non-public institutions for the provision of educational or other services to handicapped children as long as the services are nonsectarian in nature.



## A PRACTICAL ASPECT: ARE YOU COVERED BY INSURANCE?

Mentally retarded persons are eligible for our health and life insurance policies.

This has not always been the case, but in recent years more than 50 member-companies of the Health Insurance Association of America have begun to offer individual health care expense coverage of some kind to mentally retarded persons. HIAA companies cover approximately 25% of all persons carrying individual and family health care policies.

Unfortunately, one confusing aspect of this breakthrough in gaining rights for retarded citizens is that there are about as many different "benefit packages" as there are companies offering them--some are quite attractive while others are nauseatingly unjust.

All HIAA companies surveyed recently offer coverage contingent upon the insured's degree of mental retardation. Most only insure "mild retarded cases (IQ 50-70)" a few insure "moderate retarded (IQ 35-50)." Generally, the insured must be able to perform independently in caring for basic needs and capable of self-support or regular attendance in school.

All but five of the 50-some companies base coverage on presence or absence of physical complications, though generally on the same basis as for non-retarded persons.

Local member companies of HIAA include Mutual of Omaha and Physicians Mutual, as well as Security Mutual and Lincoln Liberty Life Insurance Companies in Lincoln.

The survey summary reports that there is "a substantial premium" with most companies to insure a retarded person. A few charge a standard rate. This determination usually is based on the individual circumstances of the case. However, the majority of the HIAA companies have no special limits on benefits for mentally retarded applicants.

For more information, see "The ENCOR EXCHANGE" July, 1974.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SOME GOOD NEWS: LEGAL SERVICES PROJECT FUNDED

GOARC, in cooperation with the Nebraska State Bar Association Committee on Mental Health, has received a grant from the American Bar Association's Commission on Mental Disabilities for the hiring of an attorney to be located at GOARC and to serve as a Legal Advocate for mentally retarded citizens. The Legal Advocate will provide legal representation and assistance to mentally retarded citizens and attempt to better utilize presently existing legal resources for the benefit of these citizens.

The Legal Services Project grant is for one year. It is anticipated that the Legal Advocate will be hired by January, 1977.

GOARC's proposal was one of ten selected out of fifty proposals submitted. A long hoped for addition to GOARC's advocacy efforts has finally been realized.



## YOUR HELP ON HONEY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14, 1976

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. Sign up to sell honey on Honey Sunday.
2. Sign up to drive honey sellers through their appointed areas on Honey Sunday.
3. Buy a bottle of honey yourself.

### TO VOLUNTEER CALL:

Fran Porter	451-0564	North East	Mary McGill	553-1020	South East
Glenda Davis	453-8466	North East	Cathy Amdor	551-4712	South Central
Sr. Evangeline	556-1883	North Central	Mike Nuschy	592-2524	South West
Chris Christiansen	571-4349	North West	Don Grimm	397-6043	West

# GOYARC

GOYARC has been pretty busy lately! We are proud to say that we have just completed a program that we worked on with the Developmental Maximation Unit (DMU).

Chris Fogle was the leader for this project, and we think that it was a big success. Last spring, our advisor Pat Henry approached us and said that the DMU staff had asked GOYARC to plan several outings for the kids in the unit. Right away we wanted to know more about this, so three of our members went down to meet the staff and to see what this was all about. We met the kids that were involved, and after that night, we were more anxious than ever to get the activities started.

The next time we saw the kids was on August 4, when we took them to the zoo. Since it was family day, we all got in free, and everybody had a great time. There were fourteen in our group, including four DMU kids and one staff member. We rode on the train and spent a lot of time in the petting zoo. When we left, we all went to a nearby park for a picnic.

On August 15, we all went to the Boys Town Farm. We not only saw all the cows, but we also ran across a horse show that was in progress. Everybody had a good time, and afterwards we all stopped to enjoy some ice cream.

The staff members told us that they could tell that the kids were enjoying themselves because they were all very relaxed, wide awake, and alert. They said that if the kids got bored, they would simply fall asleep. We are happy to say that nobody decided to take a nap during any one of our activities! We really are proud of this project, and glad that everybody had a great time.

Another event for GOYARC was the Local Forum of the White House Conference. Several of our members were there acting as aids, doing everything from serving coffee to working the microphones. Around lunchtime, we decided that we should get involved and speak up on behalf of the mentally retarded citizens of our community. We sat down and wrote a short speech to let everybody know who we were and what we were doing there. It might not have been the best speech ever given, but it accomplished what it was meant to-- people sure knew who we were!

Congratulations to one of our members, Janet Ratigan, who was elected to serve as a delegate to the State Forum in Lincoln.

Any ideas for the GOYARC portion of the Gazette would be very welcome. All it takes is a phone call to me at 391-0669 or to my advisor Pat Henry 397-3315.

*Heidi Davies*

Heidi Davies  
GOYARC Publications Chairperson

## PILOT PARENT ICE CREAM SOCIAL BY JANIE GRIMM

If one can judge the outcome of an Ice Cream Social by the amount of the chocolate on the kids' faces and shirts, and the dirt ground into their clothes, then this year's Pilot Parent Ice Cream Social was a smashing success!

August 29th was the date and Hanscom Park was the place. Many new piloted parents were in attendance along with many of the old timers.

This time the weatherman provided a beautiful, sunny day; there were gallons of juice, ice tea, ice cream, cookies, and all kinds of ice cream goodies. Everyone had one last fling before the school bells rang again.

Door prizes were given, and Tom Dean was the lucky winner of a grogeous plant. In addition to a full stomach, each child received a balloon, and eight of the kids won bags of candy in the door prize drawing.

The day ended around 6:00 P.M. with everyone leaving happy, relaxed and very glad that they had spent their afternoon at the Park.

We would especially like to thank Jo Ann Volcheck, Happy Joe's, Ame's Hobby House, The Mushroom, Hinky Dinky, The Yankee Clipper, The Center Bank, Food City, and the Safeway Stores for their generous contributions that helped make this year's Social an event everyone will remember.

\* \* \* \* \*

## A DREAM COME TRUE

At their September 8th meeting, the Board Members of the Omaha Public Library voted to accept the Developmental Toy Library from GOARC.

The Action Committee on Poverty and Mental Retardation and the other volunteers of GOARC are very pleased with the decision by the Public Library.

The Toy Library will be located at the Downtown Branch of the Public Library. The toys will be available to parents on a check out basis, or children may come to the library and check out the toys themselves. Any parent will have the opportunity to use the toys to teach skills to their children.

Having the Toy Library accepted as part of the service of the Public Library is really a practice in normalization.

The GOARC office will notify you of the date when the toys will be available at the Downtown Branch.

## A SPECIAL POEM FROM A PILOT PARENT

I was moved by Louise Wright's poem in the September Gazette. It reminded me of one I wrote when our Tom was very young when I was reaching out to share my feelings that were hurting. It filled its purpose and found its way to a wastebasket somewhere, so I wrote another to fill this month's space.

### TO TOM

Your coming flooded my soul  
with a pain I couldn't bear,  
a joy I couldn't foresee.

Alone, I stumbled through jungles of despair,  
seeking the sun, eclipsed  
by the shadow of my own fear.

I mourned your birth.  
You celebrated your life.

I cried, "Oh God,  
What shall we do?  
What can we do?  
Why? Why? Shy?"

You laughed and reached  
for the orange ecstasy  
of a butterfly.

Then love said "yes" to life.  
Hope fluttered and refused to die.

I'm not much more of a poet now than I was then, but it's surprising how good it makes me feel just to let it all hang out. Writing is just one of the many ways Pilot Parents can share with one another.

Alice Blackstone

\* \* \* \* \*

## ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS

The National Association for Retarded Citizens is sponsoring an art design contest. All mentally retarded persons are eligible to enter the contest. United States Savings Bonds will be presented to the top three winners, and all first place winners in the state will receive trophies. The contest winning art that is drawn by mentally retarded persons will be included on NARC Christmas Cards and also on NARC's Calendar, All Occasion Cards, and Stationary.

If your mentally retarded son, daughter, or friend would be interested in submitting a drawing to this contest, please call the GOARC office for the rules. All entries must be into the NebARC office by November 22nd.

## HELLO -- GOODBYE

### GOARC WELCOMES ELNORA CARR

On August 23, Elnora Carr began a week of orientation at the GOARC office. Elnora will be working at GOARC this year as an intern student from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. At UNO she is persuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration and Gerontology. Ms. Carr has an undergraduate degree in Social Science and a minor in Sociology and Education from Alcorn A & M University in Lorman, Mississippi.

Ms. Carr's major responsibilities will be to work closely with GOARC's Public Attitudinal Change Committee, Membership Committee, and Fund Raising Committee.

\* \* \* \* \*

### GOARC SAYS GOODBYE TO FRANK LIKELY

The GOARC Staff bid farewell to Frank Likely on August 31, 1976 at a luncheon at Mister C's Restaurant.



He had been assistant supervisor to Billie Cook for fifteen months. Mr. Likely was one of five staff members working on "Project Identification", which was a door-to-door survey to identify handicapped persons in low-income areas and refer them to the proper agency for services. The survey was sponsored by the Action Committee on Poverty and Mental Retardation. After completing this project, he continued to provide outreach services to people in Omaha.

Mr. Likely is presently the pastor of Grace Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, and he will now be devoting himself full-time to his pastoral duties.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### KC's PRESENT CHECK

On Tuesday, September 7th the Knights of Columbus presented John Clark, President, and Thomas Miller, Executive Director, with a check for \$1,006.00. This money was presented to GOARC, and a matching amount was presented to Madonna School, as a result of the Tootsie Roll Fund Raising Drive which was held in March. The Knights of Columbus worked very hard in organizing this fund raising event to sell Tootsie Rolls for a donation for retarded persons. GOARC is extremely thankful to the Knights of Columbus for all the work which they did in making the Tootsie Roll event a very successful one this first year. The Knights indicated to John and Tom that they would continue to organize the event this coming year.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS INFORM THE MEMBERS

At the General Membership Meeting on September 2, four public school special education administrators spoke to GOARC members about their programs for mentally retarded and handicapped persons. Dale Samuelson from Omaha Public Schools, Adeline Reis from Millard Schools, Ruby Huebner from Westside Schools, and Richard Schoonover from Bellevue Public Schools gave presentations. In all the school districts, as a result of the 1973 passage of LB 403 (Nebraska's education of handicapped children's bill), programs and services for severely and profoundly retarded children are being implemented this school year. The administrators gave information on these programs and on the number of new specialists that will be working in their schools this coming year. Several of the administrators talked about their concerns over the recent ENCOR program cuts. They were worried that their graduates may be forced to sit at home, unless ENCOR can gear up to place them in an industrial training center.

Dale Samuelson said that the Council for Exceptional Children's governmental relations committee will be viewing ENCOR programs in mid-September. He said that this committee will be meeting after its tour of ENCOR to set up some guidelines for the establishment of community-based services.

GOARC staff and members thank Dale Samuelson, Ruby Huebner, Adeline Reis, and Richard Schoonover for their presentation to GOARC's Membership and wish them well in the provision of education services for retarded children this coming school year.

## NARC CONVENTION IN OCTOBER

Indianapolis is the location of the 27th Annual Convention of the National Association for Retarded Citizens to be held on October 19 through October 22, 1976. May's Mental Retardation News, the national NARC publication, carried information on program and registration details. If you would be interested in attending this convention and need registration information, call the GOARC office at 551-9450.

\* \* \* \* \*

## UNITED WAY OF THE MIDLANDS CAMPAIGN IS ON

The United Way of the Midlands Campaign is a concentrated drive to raise funds for 38 health, family, child, and character-building agencies in the Metropolitan Omaha/Council Bluffs area. The campaign begins September 17 and will end November 12. For the past several years, GOARC has been a recipient of the United Way of the Midlands funds. This past year, GOARC received over \$64,000 or approximately 50% of its total budget from United Way of the Midlands.

We would strongly urge you to pledge your fair share to United Way of the Midlands, an organization which yearly helps more than 114,000 residents of Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

\* \* \* \* \*

## BABYSITTERS FOR HANDICAPPED AND SPECIAL CHILDREN

The University of Nebraska Medical Center, Meyer Children's Rehabilitation Institute, in response to the problem of finding competent babysitters for handicapped and special children, is developing a 10-week pilot educational program to train persons for this special need. The course which begins on September 20 at the Meyer Children's Rehabilitation Institute, 444 South 44th Street, Omaha, is a free course offered at a time convenient to the participants. The goal of the course is to provide trainees first-hand experience in first aid emergencies and regular problems of a multi-handicapped child in the areas of mobility, communication, feeding and play. Once the group has finished training, the institute will make their names available to parents of multi-handicapped children in the Omaha area and possibly statewide. Anyone interested in applying for the course should contact Ben Cacioppo at MCRI, 541-4954.

From: UNO's "Special News For Special Parents And Special Educators"



# CALENDAR of EVENTS

## October

- 4 Pressure Group Meeting, 7:30 P.M. at the GOARC office, 140 South 40th Street.
- 5 Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 P.M. at the GOARC office, 140 South 40th Street.
- Pilot Parent Training session with Dr. Frank Menolascino, Conference Room at the GOARC office, 140 South 40th Street at 7:30 P.M.
- Growth Group Meeting, Jenny Samson's-7455 Rogers Road, 10 A.M. til 12 P.M.
- 7 Honey Sunday Kick-Off Party, 7:30 P.M. at the Bay Meadows Apartment Clubhouse-9434 "U" Court, at 7:30 P.M.
- 8 Deadline for articles and pictures for the November Gazette.
- 11 Office will be closed for Columbus Day.
- Pilot Parent Training session with Fran Porter, Shirley Dean, Patty Smith, and Pilot Parents, at 7:30 P.M. in the Conference Room at the GOARC office, 140 South 40th Street.
- 18 Special General Membership Meeting, First Federal Lincoln Bldg., 2101 South 42nd Street, 7:30 P.M.
- Pilot Parent Training session with Anne Marie Mulligan of Planned Parenthood and Nancy Heller of the Nat'l Society of Autistic Citizens, 7:30 P.M. at the GOARC office Conference Room, 140 South 40th Street.
- 19 Board of Directors Meeting, at 7:30 P.M., GOARC office, 140 South 40th Street.
- 25 Office will be closed for Veteran's Day.
- Pilot Parent Training session. Session will be a panel discussion at 7:30 P.M. at the GOARC office Conference Room, 140 South 40th Street.

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# GOARC

# GAZETTE

NOV 1976



Dave Wingert, WOW Radio personality, is the Honorary Chairman of Honey Sunday 1976.

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GOARC Executive Committee: John Clark, President; Gene Bier, 1st Vice-President; George Armstrong, 2nd Vice-President; Jan Novicki, Recording Secretary; Barb Jessing, Corresponding Secretary; Pat Jung, Treasurer.

GOARC Staff: Tom Miller, Executive Director; Amy Humphries, Administrative Assistant; Lynne MacDonald, Office Manager; Donna Reh, Secretary; Patty Smith, Coordinator, Pilot Parent Program; Carl Sullivan, Client Ombudsperson; Billie Cook, Coordinator, Poverty and Mental Retardation Program.

Editor: Cathie Campbell

GOARC is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide a strong volunteer support organization for all mentally retarded citizens and their families by advocating for the rights, needs, and full development of these citizens of Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Annual membership: \$9.50.



A United Way Agency

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Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens  
140 South 40 St., Omaha, NE. Ph: 551-9450

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## AN OVERVIEW OF GOARC INPUT FORMS

Thanks to all of you who sent in the questionnaire regarding GOARC's programs. The input will assist GOARC's Board of Directors and staff in planning for the coming year and in doing a better job for you.

After reviewing the forms, I have some general observations to make. Approximately 70 forms were mailed back to the GOARC office. This represents only about 15% of the total membership. I do realize, however, how easy it is to place a survey form aside for the "right time". Sometimes the "right time" never seems to come along.

Independent and stable funding for GOARC was the number one activity which members felt GOARC should emphasize. This indeed is a critical area and one that has confronted GOARC for years. If any of you have any ideas that GOARC could use to raise funds, we would be more than happy to consider them. Progressive legislation and Parent and Consumer Education were listed second and third in priority. Again, if any of you have time to contribute to these areas, it would be appreciated.

Out of those responding, 20 are presently serving on a committee and 10 additional people indicated they wanted to be on a committee. Time problems certainly affect all of us, and I can easily sympathize with those persons who indicated that problem as the reason they could not be committee members.

All but one person read the GOARC Gazette. Several very good recommendations for improving the Gazette were listed including information on other services and more articles by parents. These recommendations will direct the content of future Gazettes.

A majority of the members are planning to attend the GOARC General Membership meetings. A few people wrote recommendations in order to "spruce up" the membership meetings.

A lot of people who responded to the survey put down suggestions for GOARC's Planning Committee. Among them were more family activities, re-establishing the citizen advocacy program, and creating a sense of belonging to the group.

Currently the questionnaires are being analyzed by John Clark and myself. We will use the information we received to make changes to improve the Gazette, to improve membership meetings, and to direct our programs. Also, if any of you have any suggestions for changes, please let us know any time. We are here to serve your needs and you don't have to wait for the next survey to let us know what your needs and concerns are.

Thomas Miller  
Executive Director

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As a result of studying the needed objectives within GOARC for this year, three committees have been established. These committees will meet on approximately seven nights throughout the year at the GOARC office on Tuesday night from 7:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.. The reason for the committee's meeting at the same place and the same time is so that any coordination that needs to take place can occur. The committees are: membership, finance and budget, and public attitudinal change. Our efforts are not going to be limited to only these committees, as we will have staff and other GOARC members working in other areas, but our emphasis within GOARC will be to make some measurable progress on these priorities.

I would like to see each GOARC member make an attempt to attend some of these committee meetings and choose an area in which he/she might be interested. The meeting dates will be published in the Gazette; members will not have to feel any responsibility for tying up long periods of time between the meetings. Come to as many of the meetings as possible.

Membership within GOARC has been declining the last 3 years and if each GOARC member would try and recruit only one member, it can easily be seen what effect that would have.

New fund-raising projects are necessary and essential for being able to plan in the future on continuing our present services. We cannot count on our present funds always being available.

Progress has been made in the area of public attitudinal change through positive efforts in the news media. Channel 7 (KETV) has particularly given the Pilot Parent Program a boost with their regular public service announcements. We want to get our message across to the public in a positive manner instead of only responding to crisis situations.

Many members volunteered in our latest survey questionnaire to serve on a committee. Now is the chance to get involved. Please choose an area.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support.

John Clark  
President



**COME OUT OF YOUR HIVE**

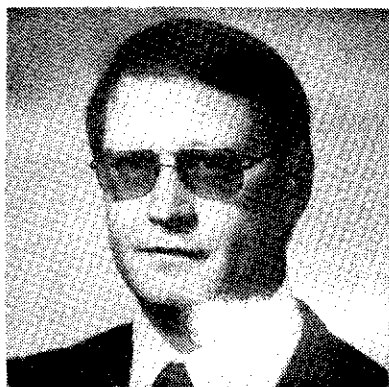
**Be a Honey...Sunday, Nov. 14**

**To volunteer call....**

**GOARC - - 551-9450**

## ENTHUSIASM, ENERGY, EXPERIENCE

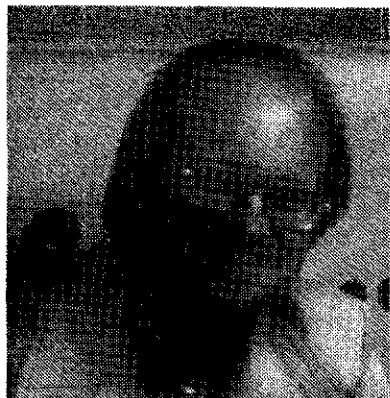
### INTRODUCING THE 1976 HONEY SUNDAY CHAIRMEN



Meet Bob Gehrman, GOARC's 1976 Honey Sunday Chairman. Bob, an assistant revenues supervisor for North-western Bell, has a long history of involvement in the ARC cause. He is a member of the GOARC Board of Directors and a representative to the NebARC Board. He is also a past vice president of NebARC and had chaired both the state and regional Membership Committees.

Bob and his wife, Sheila, have five children: Christopher, Peter, Matthew, Patrick and Andrew. Matthew attends a TMH class in the Millard School District.

\* \* \* \* \*



Chairing Honey Sunday 1976 for the Northwestern Bell Jaycees is Russ Ingram. If the name sounds familiar, it's because Russ was manpower chairman of the 1972 Honey Sunday campaign, and has also been actively involved in the Special Olympics.

Russ is a design analyst at Northwestern Bell. He and his wife Betty have two children, Jill and Joel.

Other Northwestern Bell Jaycees assisting Russ are: Tom Sander, publicity chairman; John Severin, Jr., manpower chairman; and Steve Hill and Bob Lanphier, distribution point chairman.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A FUNNY THING HAPPENED

(Editor's Note: Speaking on behalf of GOARC is not always satisfying and rewarding. Unfortunately, as Alice Blackstone and Cheri Dean discovered, some audiences are glad that "someone" is doing something for "them.")

Funny how frequently people focus on the THEM's instead of the US's. They understand that handicapped persons have needs that require special help. They don't realize their parents are staggering under a load of shock, grief, and despair for which they are unprepared. They don't know how desperately they need support and understanding from others who have "been there," know how it feels, and have moved along to a point where they can function.



Without this particular kind of help to which Pilot Parents are dedicated, the circle of understanding, acceptance, and love that enables parents and children to grow is broken. And when the circuit of power is cut off, potential is severely curtailed.

This is what we try to get across. What they got from our remarks, we're not sure. At least we planted a seed that may sprout and increase the public's understanding of the need for and the importance of Pilot Parents.

\* \* \* \* \*

### PILOT PARENTS' SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Recently, a number of Pilot Parents have been speaking on behalf of the Program.

Fran Porter and Pat Herren spoke to a group of teachers from the Omaha Public Schools at the request of Dr. Mike Nuschy from UNO. The reports about this talk were marvelous. They have been invited back to do four sessions in November.

Cheri Dean and Alice Blackstone made a presentation to Beta Sigma Phi women's sorority in September. During August this "dynamic duo" presented parents points-of-view to Dr. Leonard Cloninger's class.

Louise Wright, Patty Smith, Willa Ruppel and Kay Fischer did a parent panel for approximately 90 student nurses at the new University of Nebraska College of Nursing. This was Louise's first presentation and she did a beautiful job.

It is great to have so many parents willing to share their experiences with others. This is an excellent opportunity for attitudinal change of the public through these presentations. If any of you are willing to take part in these talks, please call Patty Smith at the GOARC office - 551-9450. We are especially looking for dads that would be willing to participate.

\* \* \* \* \*

### PILOT PARENTS RECEIVE AIR-TIME

From July 18, 1976 to July 23, 1976, KETV - Channel 7 aired 3 public service announcements for Pilot Parents - a donation of air-time in the amount of \$245.00. Pilot Parents thank KETV, Betty Shapiro, and Loretta Harris for their service to GOARC and the community.

\* \* \* \* \*

### FORGET SOMETHING?

Parents, professionals, and interested citizens, if you have checked out toys from the Developmental Toy Library please return them or telephone Billie Cook (551-9450) and arrangements will be made to pick them up. We are in the process of taking an inventory before the Toy Library is moved to the Omaha Public Library.

# HEALTH

## SWINE FLU: SOME FACTS!

### Bivalent Vaccine (A/New Jersey and A/Victoria Flu)

- Available to all persons 65 years of age and over.
- Available to all persons over 3 years of age with chronic or debilitating illness.
- No charge for the shot.
- Informed consent forms must be signed by anyone receiving the vaccine.
- One dose or shot is needed for those 19 years of age and over.
- Children and adolescents ages 3-18, with chronic or debilitating disease, should receive two shots separated by at least 4 weeks.
- All eligible persons should be vaccinated before winter.
- Persons allergic to eggs should not receive vaccine.
- People with fever should delay getting vaccinated until fever is gone.
- People who have received another type of vaccine in the past 14 days should consult a physician before taking the flu vaccine.
- The vaccine cannot give people the flu because the vaccine is made from killed viruses.
- The flu vaccine is safe and effective.
- Bivalent Vaccine contains two separate and distinct flu viruses...A/New Jersey and A/Victoria.
- If you have any questions about whether you should receive the vaccine, call your private physician.

\* \* \* \* \*

## EPILEPSY COUNCIL OF OMAHA (ECO)

The voice of a new group of determined citizens is now being heard in Greater Omaha. The group is seeking to improve the status of epileptic persons through self-education and public awareness. The Epilepsy Council of Omaha, less than one year old, is steadily growing, welcoming all new members with a friendly smile. For further information, please call 895-2282, or 331-1434.

# GOYARC

What do you think of when you hear the word AGPA? An agricultural agency? Good guess, but not exactly right. AGPA is the Action Group on Public Awareness. And the "action" part of the title isn't just a word -- we mean it. AGPA is the former Public Attitudinal Change (PAC) Committee. Led by Chairperson Jodi Nadler and Advisor Pat Henry, this division of GOYARC has been doing a lot of exciting things.

AGPA has several goals. We're planning to let local high school sociology and psychology classes and church youth groups know that we are available to make presentations. The presentation is very versatile, so it can be changed to fit the group we're talking to at that time. After several planning sessions we had our first presentation at Burke High School. Our presentation included sections on labeling, deviancy, the realities of mental retardation, public awareness, and GOYARC. Having survived the first one, we hope the rest will seem quite a bit easier.

Other projects we have set up include producing a public service announcement for radio and television, and making a new GOYARC poster. Although we didn't make a presentation...both GOYARC and ENCOR were represented at the Westside High School Volunteer Fair. By talking to the students on a one-to-one basis, we left with a list of promising new volunteers.

Besides AGPA, GOYARC has been quite active in just plain having fun. In recent weeks, we have been busy roller skating, playing football (victoriously, mind you), picking apples in Council Bluffs, and having a big camp-out at Ponca Hills State Park. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining us on our escapades, contact one of our officers (Vicki Kelly, Bev DeMay, and Chris Beem), me (391-0669), or our advisor Pat Henry (397-3315). I'm also open to any ideas for the next Gazette article. I hope to hear from some of you.

*Heidi Davies*

Heidi Davies  
GOYARC

## AMONG THE WINNERS...TERRI NORWOOD



It's not often enough that a winner is recognized. Many GOYARC youth are doing truly outstanding things...or being outstanding people. It's not really that the good things go unnoticed or are taken just for granted. But the monthly GOARC Gazette deadline seems to come so fast that the good words are often put off until next month.

Then there comes a someone like Terri Norwood. She is strong and generous enough to overpower a writer's pension to procrastinate. There is plenty of goodness in Terri, and much pride in a group that can call her one of their own.

GOYARC and Terri bumped into each other several times without ever really meeting. As a student at Ryan High she came into daily contact with the ENCOR Adolescent Education students whose classroom was in her school. They were seen often - but for awhile Terri left it at that. During the year she met someone with definite ideas that integration would require more from students who weren't retarded. Rick Duffer was then a senior at Ryan, a friend of Terri's, and GOYARC's President. Terri got involved at school; the interest was there, but she remained largely on the sidelines.

This summer Bev DeMay and Vicki Kelly (Rick's successor) called Terri. Won't you join us in a GOYARC activity? Terri's "I'm not sure" melted away when the two came over to her home to talk to her about it. Terri is now committed to the Youth. Her past hasitation, she explains, was only delaying the inevitable. So many enthusiastic people converged on Terri. They ignited her interest. Maybe it was chance...but maybe not. Terri wonders about that.

Terri seems to be making up for lost time. She is a part of the Action Group on Public Awareness. Along with other GOYARC members, she addressed an assembly at Burke High. Terri led off with a fable to explain to the social psychology class what it would be like to be an outsider just because a person differed from his peers.

Because of Terri, GOYARC is getting closer to what it ought to be. Big activities can still be impersonal. Not with Terri around. She is great at making others feel they belong. It doesn't stop there. Her times together with those she has met in GOYARC continue well beyond the formal activities.

Many of us know Terri as a true friend...and that's what GOYARC is really all about.

## GOYARC PLAYS BALL



Dale Cosgrove goes for the first score.



Jody Nadler and Zeus enjoy pop after the game.

Jim Phillips tries to recover a fumble.



Theresa Haugen wins the prize.



Terri in the huddle!



## CRISIS HOMES NEEDED BY ENCOR

As most Gazette readers know, ENCOR's Crisis Assistance Unit closed in March, 1976, due to budget realities. To meet the continuing need for crisis assistance, ENCOR budgeted for "crisis homes" in 1976-1977. We hope that this article will encourage some Gazette readers to provide a crisis home and become crisis home parents.

The Crisis homes provide short-term respite care to mentally retarded persons living in the community with their families. The maximum time is two weeks for each placement.

Crisis home parents are paid \$15.00 a day by voucher through Douglas County. ENCOR residential staff provide training and supervision.

If you were to provide a crisis home, you would be responsible for:

1. Client care - food, bed, clean clothes, etc.
2. Administration of prescription medications.
3. Keeping a daily log of client activities.
4. Obtaining emergency medical assistance if necessary.
5. Informing ENCOR of incidents which are out of the ordinary.

Crisis home parents attend ENCOR's new staff orientation for two working days prior to the first placement in your home. The pay for orientation is \$15.00 a day, also.

You would not be responsible for:

1. Transportation to and from school, work, clinics, appointments, etc.
2. Attendance at meetings, clinics, etc., regarding the client.
3. Scheduling appointments.
4. Any financial obligations incurred while obtaining medical services.

Crisis home parents open their homes to clients at their own convenience and have the right to say "no, not this time". Placements are arranged in advance.

As a crisis home parent, you could expect a visit from your ENCOR supervisor on the first day of placement. The staff are available should problems arise. For longer placements, phone contact is made every 2-3 days. Every crisis home must be licensed, which would mean a visit from ENCOR's Program and Facility Monitoring Officer after application is made.

Crisis assistance is needed badly by many families. We would encourage anyone who might possibly be interested in providing this service to call Sheila Smith, ENHSA Personnel Department, at 444-6580.

Bonnie Shoultz - ENCOR

## REACREDITATION BEING SOUGHT BY ENCOR

ENCOR will be surveyed during November by AC/MR-DD, the Accreditation Council for Services to the Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Disabled (formerly known as AC/FMR). ENCOR was accredited in 1974 by AC/FMR, after an intensive survey of the agency on approximately 1300 standards. ENCOR learned a great deal during the last survey and, in spite of funding problems, has carried out or is attempting to carry out many of the recommendations. We hope that this time through, we will learn even more.

An important part of the process the Public Information Interview, in which the surveyors meet with interested members of the public, especially with people who are consumers, advocates, parents, and representatives of other agencies. Although we don't yet know which week the survey team will be coming, ENCOR would like to urge anyone interested in attending this meeting to plan on doing so. Notice of the time and place will be in the newspaper; we may also send notice to all GOARC members, if the budget permits.

The standards on which ENCOR will be rated, although quite detailed and difficult from any agency to meet, are not hard to read. Copies of the standards, or further information about the survey, can be obtained by calling Bonnie Shoultz at 444-6500. Reading sections of these standards will help interested persons to provide honest and relevant testimony at the Public Information Interview, although reading the standards is not necessary for anyone who wishes to speak.

Meeting the standards means that an agency provides a high level of service quality to its clients. The main focus of the process is on individualized, coordinated planning and programming for each client of an agency, with the client or his or her parents having an active part in the planning. The standards also require that every building meets fire and safety codes, that an agency's fiscal affairs are in order, that attention is paid to the health needs of clients, and that every mentally retarded person is seen as a developing person who can and should participate in, and contribute to, his community.

Bonnie Shoultz - ENCOR

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## A RECREATIONAL PROGRAM FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED YOUTH

The West Branch YMCA (7502 Maple St.) began a recreation program for youth and young adults in September; but it's not too late to register your child. Children between 5-13 years old attend on Monday's, Wednesday's, and Friday's and those who are 13 and older attend on Tuesday's and Thursday's; both groups are there from 3:15 - 5:15. Cost of the program is 90¢ a day. The program runs til December 17th. Activities include: 1 hour of pool time each day for swimming lessons, 1 hour of other activities like roller skating, gymnastics, basketball, kickball, bowling, and hiking. A call to Kate Lyons or Mary Kay Hyde (393-3700) and your son or daughter can be a part of the fun.

## GOYARC CALENDAR: TAKE NOTE OF NOVEMBER

Several opportunities ahead to get together. There are meetings of the Action Group on Public Awareness. Jodi Nadler (397-7811), Group Leader, would welcome some new members interested in shaping public attitudes. Vicki Kelly (397-1054), Youth President, has scheduled meetings of the Steering Committee during the month. This is generally where the plans take shape. A call to Vicki, and you can be part of that.

Maybe your interest is more in activities. Here's what's ahead:

### NOVEMBER 6 (SATURDAY) - NEB-YARC BOARD

Susan DeMay (391-7499) and Terri Norwood (331-5928) are our co-representatives to the State Youth Board. You're welcome to join them in Lincoln for the quarterly business meeting. And that night...

### NOVEMBER 6 (SATURDAY NIGHT) - HAY RACK RIDE

Might be cold, but still should be fun. We'll meet at Crossroads and then head to Council Bluffs for a night hay-rack ride. Call Rod Schoening (331-7028) and Steve Beem (393-8242). After the ride, a bonfire and hot chocolate - then we'll head home.

### NOVEMBER 7 (SUNDAY) - ACTION GROUP ON PUBLIC AWARENESS

GOYARC scheduled to talk with youth at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Want to help tell about us? Call Jodi Nadler (397-7811).

### NOVEMBER 12 (FRIDAY) - AWARENESS

Young adult discussion group will meet at a movie at the twilight hour. Prices are cheaper then. We'll pick a film that will likely lead to discussion when we meet later at St. Timothy's Church (9300 Dodge). Vicki Kelly (397-1054), Paster Harman (571-1128) and Pat Henry (397-3315) will have more definite information on times and places early in the month. Give them a call.

### NOVEMBER 14 (SUNDAY) - HONEY SUNDAY

As in past years, this is a big day for the youth. Many will be working in areas around their homes, with their folks or neighbors. A gang will help in the South Omaha areas. Heidi Davies (391-0669) and Chris Beem will be working along with GOARC's adults to hustle the honey.

### NOVEMBER 21 (SUNDAY) - NEB-YARC DANCE AT BEATRICE

Disco Dance planned at the Beatrice State Home. While the event is from 2 til 4 in the afternoon, the trip and all will gobble up most of the day. Plan to leave in the morning from Crossroads. Janet Ratigan (397-4328) is setting our exact times of departure and return with her advisors, Rose and Mike White (551-6306). It's good to get there well before the dance and renew the friendships that many from



GOYARC youth have with BSH youth from Omaha. On the way back we'll stop for pizza; you'll need a couple dollars. While you're there at Beatrice, you can meet some youth that are kept from the mainstream of community life. Cards and letters can hold the relationship till we visit again.

#### DECEMBER 5 (SUNDAY) - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Film and discussion will focus on the importance of care and concern. Mix that with some heavy decision-making, new friends, and snacks... ought to keep your interest. Meet at 7:00. Likely to be held at Occidental Savings and Loan, 90th and Arbor. Vicki Kelly (397-1054) and Pat Henry (397-3315) will know for sure.

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#### MADONNA SCHOOL BOUTIQUE-STYLE SHOW AND DESERT

WHEN: December 1, 1976  
7 P. M.

WHERE: Marion High School  
7400 Military

Proceeds to Madonna School to be used specifically for equipment for speech therapy. The Style Show will be presented by Sears, and shown by Designer Dwight Jordan. Deserts and boutique items will be homemade. There will also be a plant booth and raffle items; one will be a microwave oven. For more information, please call Hayes Schreiner at 393-3791.

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#### AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSAL

The Legal Services Project proposal, which was submitted to the American Bar Association Commission on Mental Disabilities by GOARC in cooperation with the Nebraska State Bar Association Committee on Mental Health, has been awarded funding for a twelve month period. The Legal Services Project will involve a full-time attorney on GOARC's staff for the purpose of providing legal assistance and representation to mentally retarded citizens. The attorney will act as a Legal Advocate for consumers. The project was selected as number two out of fifty proposals submitted to the A.B.A. Commission on Mental Disabilities of which ten were funded and involves the greater and more effective utilization of existing legal resources, training, and education of legal professionals in regard to mental disability law, and the commitment of Bar Association resources for the achievement of these goals.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CITIZENS FOR THE EDUCATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

A state-wide committee for the successful passage of Amendment VI, Part I, has been formed. Anyone believing that all children regardless of handicapping conditions or place of residency have the basic constitutional right to a meaningful education are asked to volunteer their time and effort for this very essential cause. If time is limited, financial support would be appreciated. Together we can make it possible for all handicapped children to have an education. To volunteer for more information, contact Mrs. Gene NicholSEN, State Chairperson, 13305 Williams Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68144, 402-334-9303; or Luther Schmidt, 407 Hillside Drive, Hastings, Nebraska, 68901, State Treasurer. The amendment as it will be read on the ballot is as follows:

A vote for this proposal will enable the legislature to enact legislation providing that the State or any political subdivision may contract with non-public institutions for the provision of educational or other services to handicapped children as long as the services are non-sectarian in nature. A vote against this proposal will continue the present situation whereby neither the State nor any political subdivision may contract with non-public institutions for the provision of educational or other services to handicapped children even though non-sectarian in nature. A Constitutional Amendment would permit contracting with institutions not wholly owned or controlled by the state or any political subdivision for non-sectarian services by handicapped children. Election Day is November 2, 1976.

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## GOARC/ENCOR OMBUDSPERSON POSITION CONTINUED

For a period of time there was some question as to whether the Ombudsperson position would continue to operate; that question has been resolved; the Ombudsperson position has received funding for the next fifteen months and is presently operating, or "alive and well", at GOARC, as usual.

Some additions in the advocacy efforts of GOARC which includes the Ombudsperson is Ms. R.A. "Toni" Benton who will be acting as assistant to the Ombudsperson for approximately fifteen months.

\* \* \* \* \*

## PAPER CAN BECOME MONEY

Several years ago, Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB) established with several non-profit organizations a credit plan so they could make money from newspapers which were brought in the KOB re-cycling plants. GOARC was one of the agencies which has a credit account with KOB. Our account number is A0309. In order for GOARC to take advantage of this credit, you must take your newspapers to one of the KOB sites located throughout the City, and tell them that it is for GOARC. For locations of the KOB sites call the GOARC office (551-9450). In this way, you can be contributing to GOARC financially. See if you can't drum up business and get your neighbors to save paper for GOARC.

## COMMENTS FROM CANDIDATES

The following comments were made during GOARC's General Membership meeting on Monday, October 18. Due to space limitations, only short excerpts are given for each candidate.

Robert Anderson - Republican Candidate for Douglas County Commissioner. Robert Anderson's major concern was over the irresponsibility of County spending. He said that his priority for services was the elderly, mentally ill, and the Riverfront project. Mr. Anderson continued to refer to mentally retarded people as being "mentally ill".

Senator John J. Cavanaugh - U.S. House of Representatives, Second District. Senator Cavanaugh discussed the assistance he has given to mentally retarded programs through LB 403 and other legislation while he served in the State Legislature. He said that he would want to extend his assistance in the areas of educational and vocational opportunities for mentally retarded persons if he was elected to the House of Representatives.

Dan Lynch - Democrat Candidate for Douglas County Commissioner. Dan Lynch, incumbent, discussed three areas: 1) ENCOR survived during a very difficult year of funding crises, and it can expand again. 2) Funding for mental retardation programs should be a well spelled out partnership between county and state governments. 3) It is very important for GOARC, the advocate group, to exist, and to continue to be strong.

Dave Marrerro - State Legislature, Fifth District. Dave Marrerro indicated that the major priorities within the human services area for retarded individuals were: 1) funding, 2) education, 3) employment, and 4) public awareness. He indicated that he would work in these major areas for retarded persons.

Bill Brennan - State Legislature, Ninth District (Dave Stahmer spoke for Bill Brennan). Dave Stahmer said that Bill Brennan is a person who will stand behind good government, is experienced and will work for handicapped persons.

John Guy - State Legislature, Eleventh District. John Guy said that his concern has been for the human needs of people. He has championed the cause of legislation and stated that every State Senator knew his involvement. He said that he has a record of being involved and of being sensitive to the needs of people.

Dave Newell - State Legislature, Thirteenth District. Dave Newell indicated that he had failed to do research that has to be done regarding various issues. He discussed his confusion over Amendment VI and the fact that he would like to do more homework in that area. He also said that he would work for accessibility for the physically handicapped.

Senator George Syas - State Legislature, Thirteenth District. Senator Syas, the incumbent, said that he would like his performance, and previous voting record for retarded citizens to speak for themselves. Senator Syas

indicated that he was supportive of LB 403 and other legislation. He said he would continue his support.

Senator Dickinson - State Legislature, Thirty-First District. Senator Dickinson, incumbent, said that he has been in support of adequate funding for community based programs. He said that the legislature has been very generous to mental retardation programs. He said we had to realize that we were another "special interest group", however, competing for a limited amount of funds.

Jim Monahan - State Board of Education, Second District. Jim Monahan said that he has a handicapped child who goes to Madonna School. He feels that the State School Board must be responsible for funds that go to special education programs and vocational rehabilitation services. He indicated that he would be coming from the perspective of a parent and that that input would be most helpful to the State Board of Education.

Dr. John Dunn - Omaha Public School Board of Education, Sub-District #4. Dr. Dunn said that education provides the opportunity to produce independence and independence is one of the key goals for people who are handicapped. Dr. Dunn said that schools stress services to kids who are "well" and within the "normal" range and not services for those who have special problems.

Mrs. Gaynelle Goodrich - Omaha Public School Board of Education, Sub-District #8. Mrs. Goodrich discussed her four goals: 1) adequate education in schools, 2) full funding from LB 403, 3) early intervention programs for handicapped children age 3 to 5 and, 4) education beyond 18 for handicapped persons.

Pat Geringer - Omaha Public School Board of Education, Sub-District #10 (Sharon Carr spoke for Pat Geringer). Sharon Carr said that Pat Geringer was a person who would be very involved in speaking out for the needs of handicapped children if she were elected to the school board.

The following were unable to attend the General Membership meeting. They sent in their responses to the GOARC office. Select phrases from their letters follow:

Richard Fellman - Democrat Candidate for Douglas County Commissioner. "I share in your pride, knowing that we in Eastern Nebraska have a program for mentally retarded citizens that is considered to be outstanding and is used as a model for other communities across the nation. When I have expressed concern, it has been directed only at areas of obvious administration confusion and inefficiency. To my mind, great strides have been made in correcting these inadequacies."

Pat Venditte - State Legislature, Seventh District. "The most important issues affecting our mentally retarded citizens are: 1) I would favor development of school supported workshops for the retarded...beyond age 21. 2) Need to develop a total K-12 vocational program and materials to adapt to public schools. 3) Financial aid or assistance which can support private enterprise when a work placement is considered for a retarded citizen. 4) Counselling available for parents of retarded citizens. 5) Need to develop more social activities for retarded adults."

Sam J. Howell, III - State Legislature, Ninth District. "Not only do we need to deinstitutionalize them (the retarded) but we need to give them

and their parents various alternatives. Certainly keeping the retarded within their own community is of paramount importance but not if they are only to be allowed to go to one particular school or engage in one particular area of therapy. I would support legislation that would provide more alternatives for the retarded and their parents."

Blase J. Cubich - Democrat Candidate, Sarpy County Commissioner, Fourth District. "I would like to stress that I totally support, without question or reservation, all current programs, services and goals of GOARC that assist the mentally retarded citizen. Most important for the mentally retarded citizen is adequate funding. Another important issue of the mentally retarded citizen is the expansion of service needs. One of the service needs not currently in existence is recreation, and it should be."

Paul Kennedy - Omaha Public School Board of Education, Sub-District #10. "I would stress the importance of: 1) maintenance of effort, 2) keeping interest high, 3) goals for the future. These are not so attractive, possibly, as the initiation and introductions but they are essential for survival."

In addition to giving you the information from the candidates, we would ask your support for two amendments:

- 1) The first is Amendment VI, part one. NebARC and GOARC Boards have both voted in support of this amendment which will allow public schools to contract with private schools for the education of handicapped children.
- 2) The second is Amendment VIII which will raise the State Senators monthly salary from \$400 to \$675 a month. This increase is quite slight, we feel, for the amount of work that is done, but it will help our legislators cover their expenses.

# CALENDAR of EVENTS

## November

- 1 Pilot Parent Training - 140 South 40th Street  
Dr. Cordelia Robinson, Director of Infant Stimulation Program - MCRI  
Jane Sherratt, Nurse Specialist - VNA  
Dave Howard, Executive Director - ENCOR
- 3 GOARC Executive Committee Meeting  
GOARC Office - 140 South 40th St.  
7:30 P.M.
- 8 Pilot Parent Training - 140 South 40th Street  
Normalization - What Is It?  
Thomas Miller, Executive Director - GOARC  
7:30 P.M.
- 9 Committees Meeting - 140 South 40th Street  
7:30 P.M.
- 12 Gazette deadline for December's issue

## 14 HONEY SUNDAY

- 15 Pilot Parent Training - 140 South 40th Street  
Anne Marie Aita Mulligan - Planned Parenthood of Lincoln  
Nancy Heller, Member of the National Society of Autistic Citizens  
7:30 P.M.
- 16 GOARC Board of Directors Meeting  
GOARC Office - 140 South 40th Street  
7:30 P.M.
- 19 Westside Community Schools  
Julian Stein - Consultant on Programs for Handicapped  
Administration Building  
909 South 76th Street  
9:00 A.M. until 11:30 A.M.  
Awareness on issues, legislation, need for in-services,  
need for special training in recreation.  
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