



**DISABILITY
RESOURCE
DIGEST**

Volume 5 Issue 4 April 2005

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The Disability Resource Digest (DRD) is a special project of SMD Alliance. SMD Alliance is based in Manitoba, Canada and provides strategic vision and policy direction to five SMD corporations: SMD Clearinghouse; SMD Foundation; SMD Ventures; SMD AbiTech; and SMD Services.

The vision shared among the corporations is of a "community that supports the independence, participation, and empowerment of persons of all abilities." Each SMD corporation pursues a complementary mandate in working toward this vision.

The DRD is prepared primarily as an informational resource for consumers, professionals and publics interested in remaining current in disability related issues. An archive of past editions of the DRD is maintained on SMD's web site (<http://www.smd-services.com/>).

Published monthly (with a single summer edition for July and August), the DRD presents summaries of, and URL addresses for, notable disability-related content on the world-wide web (WWW). The DRD focuses on recently posted content but also includes coverage other web pages of interest. The URL addresses cited in the DRD are current at the time of publication. But as those posting content on the web often revise URL addresses, the addresses in the DRD may not remain current.

The DRD is prepared for SMD Alliance by The Project Group (TPG) Consulting Cooperative Ltd., a Winnipeg-based consulting firm. Neither SMD nor TPG are responsible for the accuracy or reliability of the content cited in the DRD.

Readers interested in learning more about SMD Alliance are invited to visit: <http://www.smd-services.com/> or to contact the agency by e-mail at info@smd.mb.ca. Readers are also invited to send comments and suggestions regarding the DRD to this same e-mail address.

FOCUSSED COVERAGE - TERRY SCHIAVO, AND RELATED ISSUES

Against the killing of the light - by Ed Smith (*CBC News Viewpoint*). "I find myself sleeping with the enemy these days. That includes U.S. President George W. Bush, Florida Governor Jeb Bush, all the little bushes (Republicans) who scurry around after them, the ultra-conservative Christian Right in the United States, and Lord knows who else. The bed is getting rather crowded and for me grossly uncomfortable, but here we all are. As that other meaning for the euphemistic 'sleeping with' implies, very little actual sleeping is going on." http://www.cbc.ca/news/viewpoint/vp_disabilitymatters/smith_20050322.html

Disability Rights Activist Has Experienced Medically Induced Starvation - "Kate Adamson, award winning author and disability rights activist, by request of the Schindler family, has launched a campaign to save Terri Schiavo from starvation. Like Terri, the doctors felt that Kate was someone who should not or could not be saved. Kate suffered a catastrophic brain stem stroke and was dependent on a feeding tube for all her nourishment. Kate had her feeding tube turned off for over a week." <http://www.earnedmedia.org/ka0301.htm>

End-of-Life Choices: Feeding Tubes and Ventilators - "Families caring for a chronically ill loved one may eventually face very difficult decisions regarding medical treatment for the person in their care. The progression of many conditions—Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or post-stroke, for example—may lead to two of the most common such decisions: whether to use feeding tubes when a chronically ill person can no longer chew and swallow his or her food, and whether to use a ventilator when someone can no longer breathe on his or her own. Given that a person may be ill for many years, caregivers might put off discussing and thinking about medical complications that are likely to happen in the future. When decline from an illness is gradual, it is easy to not notice the early warning signs of an impending medical crisis. But understanding and discussing these issues ahead of time can help avoid the need to make urgent decisions during a crisis." http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=399

Fight over life and death not likely to end with Schiavo death - by Beth Gorham. "The bitter battle sparked by Terry Schiavo's plight isn't over. Her case prompted a national tug of war in the United States between advocates who wanted her kept alive and those who supported her right to die in a dispute that could play out for years to come. And it's raised so many unsettling questions among Americans about the role of politics and religion in such a personal decision that political analysts predict it could affect next year's mid-term elections." http://chealth.canoe.ca/health_news_detail.asp?channel_id=53&news_id=14022

Practice Parameters: Assessment And Management Of Patients In The Persistent Vegetative State - "The Quality Standards Subcommittee (QSS) of the American Academy of Neurology develops practice parameters for neurologists to use in evaluating clinical disorders. This document is based on a report published in two parts, 'Medical Aspects of the Persistent Vegetative State,' written by the Multi-Society Task Force on PVS." http://www.aan.com/professionals/practice/pdfs/pdf_1995_thru_1998/1995.45.1015.pdf

Schiavo Dies 13 Days After Tube Removed - by Mike Schneider (*AP*). "Terri Schiavo, the severely brain-damaged woman who spent 15 years connected to a feeding tube in an epic legal and medical battle that went all the way to the White House and Congress, died Thursday, 13 days after the tube was removed. She was 41. Schiavo died at 9:05 a.m. at the Pinellas Park hospice where she lay for years while her husband and her parents fought over her in what was easily the longest, most bitter - and most heavily litigated - right-to-die dispute in U.S. history."
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,1280,-4905001,00.html>

Terri Schiavo Case: Legal Issues Involving Healthcare Directives, Death, and Dying - (source: *LII.org*). "Compilation of documents and links to information about the court case involving Terri Schiavo, the Florida patient whose feeding tube was removed in March 2005. Topics include legal documents, living wills, the lawyers involved, related cases, power of attorney and health care directives, and commentary. Includes links to related sites. From FindLaw."
<http://news.findlaw.com/legalnews/lit/schiavo/>

Congress Takes a Look at Disabled Rights - "Congress is turning to more traditional means to help protect the rights of the incapacitated after failing to intervene in the Terri Schiavo case by staging emergency midnight votes and summoning the brain-damaged woman to testify. The Senate Health Committee will hold a hearing on April 6 with neurology and palliative care experts on the issue of health care provided to non-ambulatory people. This hearing replaces one originally scheduled for Monday in which Terri Schiavo and her husband were asked to appear before the panel in Washington in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent caretakers from removing the woman's feeding tubes. The House Government Reform Committee also plans to hold hearings at some time on the larger issues raised by the Schiavo case such as the long-term options available to the disabled, said David Marin, spokesman for committee chairman Tom Davis, R-Va."
<http://www.aapd.com/News/Schiavo/disabledrights.html>

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ACCESSIBILITY AND TECHNOLOGY

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible, usable products from British Standards - (*OUT-LAW.COM*). "Managing inclusive design is the subject of a new guide from the British Standards Institution (BSI) that aims to help companies improve the design of products to make them accessible to all, including disabled and elderly customers. The Disability Discrimination Act requires services to be accessible to the disabled in the UK; but generally it does not affect the design of products. So a shop or web site needs to be accessible to a person with mobility, cognitive or visual impairments; but it can lawfully sell a gadget with buttons too small and too close together for most users, sealed in a blister pack that will fight a bloody battle with any purchaser to resist being opened, and it can come with instructions that don't make sense."
<http://www.disabilities.afreepress.com/articles/index.cfm?artOID=290130&cp=309459>

Braille and Audio Letters - "L-Mail.com offers an online Braille and audio letter production services. The service offers a 24 hour turnaround for the printing and posting of Braille and audio letters to any location in the world."
<http://www.l-mail.com/scripts/static/braille.php>

Customer Respect Study of Largest Airline, Travel Firms - "Though online travel was a \$50 billion dollar (US) industry in 2004, over 85% of industry sites have online forms that customers with disabilities wouldn't be able to use. This is just one of the findings in a customer service rating that also found respect for privacy and customer responsiveness very weak areas."
http://www.equalopportunity.on.ca/eng_g/subject/index.asp?action=search_7&file_id=25803

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and Web Accessibility - "There's been widespread speculation about the new legislation being introduced under the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act), which will ensure that websites are accessible to blind and disabled users. Try to find specific information about it on the Internet and chances are you'll come up empty handed. The RNIB (Royal National Institute for the Blind) and the DRC (Disability Rights Commission), two of the most renowned advocates for the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) and accessible websites, have no specific information about the laws and what websites specifically need to do in order to meet the legal requirements."
<http://www.wwwcoder.com/main/parentid/472/site/4610/266/default.aspx>

EZ Access Featured in Accessible Airport Paging System - "The first fully accessible paging and information system has been deployed at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. This groundbreaking system was developed by ARINC Incorporated, a leader in transportation communications and systems engineering, and implements Trace's EZ Access technology. Airport visitors will now be able to send and receive messages at Paging Assistance Locations, or 'PALs,' using a keyboard or touch screen. For those who can't use the keyboard or touch screen, there is an audio version of what is on the screen and an EZ Access keypad that allows navigation of the touch screen through the use of only four buttons."
<http://trace.wisc.edu/news/archives/000205.htm#000205>

Michigan Introduces Text Version of State Web Site - "Yet another enhancement has been made to Michigan's award-winning Web site. The e-Michigan Web Development team within the Michigan Department of Information Technology has unveiled a new text version of the Michigan.gov web site. Any web page on the site can now be displayed in a text-only format. A new [Text Version] link now appears directly under the top navigation links and on the right side of each web page. Clicking on the [Text Version] link will replicate the web page in a text-only format, eliminating all of the graphic images. The text-only enhancement provides for improved accessibility. People with varied types of disabilities who use assistive technologies and adaptive strategies will benefit from a text-only web site, making it less difficult to navigate the site."
<http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=93186>

Online disability experts database help with compliance for disability access - "A new online tool to help organisations meet their disability access needs is launched yesterday by

the [Museums, Libraries and Archives Council](#) (MLA). Providing online access to a database of over 200 disability trainers, auditors and consultants who have an interest or experience in working with museums, galleries, libraries and archives, Disability Experts is the first database of its kind in the cultural sector – and the latest step towards reducing access barriers in our heritage organisations."

<http://www.publictechnology.net/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=2642>

Talking prescription drug labels - "The Thailand IC-Design Incubator (TIDI) unit at the National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre is developing drug labels that will allow the manufacturer and/or doctor prescribing medication to add audio reminders and warnings to drug labels. Clearly it will help the blind as well as everyone else who is forgetful about taking their medication."

http://www.medgadget.com/archives/2005/03/talking_prescri.html

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TECHNOLOGY

Databases of Assistive Technology - "Industry Canada has compiled this list of Web-based resources that catalogue assistive devices, their manufacturers and vendors and service providers and practitioners in the fields of assistive technology, rehabilitation and research."

<http://www.at-links.gc.ca/db-01E.asp?d=0#CCC>

HumanWare to Design Next Generation Talking Book Player - "HumanWare has announced it will be developing the next generation of digital talking book players for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). HumanWare, the new business issued from the recent merger of VisuAide and Pulse Data International, has been contracted by the Federal Technology Service of the General Services Administration, on behalf of the NLS as a member of a consortium led by Battelle and involving the National Federation of the Blind and the Trace Center to develop the reader."

<http://www.visionconnection.org/Content/Technology/News/HumanWaretoMakeNextGenofReader.htm>

IBM Mouse Adapter Helps Hand-Tremor Sufferers - by Susan B. Shor (*TechNewsWorld*).

"Computer users who suffer from hand tremors often find it difficult to negotiate a computer because shaking disturbs the smooth flow of the mouse. IBM (NYSE: IBM) today announced that its researchers had developed an Assistive Mouse Adapter that compensates for the involuntary motion and allows normal mouse use. The company has licensed the technology to a small British firm, Montrose Secam, because it did not have a broad enough commercial application to justify Big Blue's developing it. Montrose Secam's founder, James Cosgrave, has hand tremors, which, he said, did not alter his ability to drive or pilot a plane, but did stop him from using a computer."

<http://www.technewsworld.com/story/hardware/41412.html>

Robot Guide Dog Picks Up Where Man's Best Friend Leaves Off - (*Newswise*). "A new, one-of-a-kind robot uses the latest technology to help the visually impaired find their way

when traditional guide dogs can't. The Robotic Guide is a combination of high-tech computer parts and a mobile base that assists the visually impaired in busy areas such as grocery stores, malls and airports. The robot uses radio frequency technology to give directions, product location and information to the visually impaired once they enter a store or airport."

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/510688/>

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ADVOCACY

The Importance of Self-Advocacy for College Students in Plain, Simple Language - by Michael J. Ward, Ph.D. "The National Council on Disability (2003) found that the percentage of college freshmen with a disability has more than tripled over the last twenty years. More recently, the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study 2000 reported a significant growth in the disability rate: 9.3% of all undergraduates or 1,530,000 students compared to its 1996 Study: 5.5%, or 919,000 students (U.S. Department of Education, 1997). In spite of these increasing numbers, too many students with disabilities are experiencing limited success and exiting college without completing their programs."

<http://www.heath.gwu.edu/Templates/Newsletter/Issue12/Self%20Advocacy%20in%20Simple%20Terms%20Rev.htm>

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EMPLOYMENT

Labor Department Offers Employers Database of Qualified College Students and Graduates Seeking Summer and Full-time Jobs - (*U.S. Newswire*). "A free database that identifies 1,913 qualified college students and recent graduates with disabilities who seek summer and fulltime employment is available for the tenth year to public and private sector employers to help them meet their staffing needs. 'The Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) offers employers a larger pool of skilled job candidates to choose from while offering students and graduates with disabilities more opportunity to explore or begin careers,' said Roy Grizzard, assistant secretary of labor for disability employment policy. 'The program also fulfills President Bush's New Freedom Initiative pledge to promote employment opportunities for people with disabilities throughout the nation'."

<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=44439>

Learning Disabilities on the Job! - "A brochure that provides information on the nature of learning disabilities, an invisible information processing disorder which may affect as many as ten percent of Ontarians. The brochure also provides employers with information and examples on how affordable accommodations will enhance work performances of their employees with learning disabilities."

http://www.equalopportunity.on.ca/eng_g/subject/index.asp?action=search_7&file_id=25802

Neglected or Hidden: Connecting Employers and People with Disabilities in Canada -

"Employers, community organizations, and people with disabilities have found common ground on how to address an unemployment rate for Canadians with disabilities that is 70% higher than the national average. This finding is presented in a report by the Canadian Abilities Foundation (CAF) that undertook a nation-wide Neglected or Hidden research

project to determine why employment continues to be an elusive dream for tens of thousands of Canadians with disabilities."

<http://www.canparaplegic.org/national/level2.tpl?var1=story&var2=20030115182939>

Preparing for an International Career: Pathways for People with Disabilities - "*Preparing for an International Career* encourages young adults with international interests to explore careers in the international affairs, exchange and development fields. This booklet highlights different types of international occupations, job prospects, tips to prepare for an international career, insights from role models and the international exchange and fellowship programs they participated in to get them where they are today."

<http://www.miusa.org/publications/books/pic>

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ETHICS

Parents, doctors debate value of newborn screening tests - "Simple blood tests can now detect obscure genetic diseases that may be deadly in newborns, but there's a debate over whether all the tests are worthwhile. Canadian doctors agree it's valuable to screen for two common genetic diseases called congenital hypothyroidism and PKU. Some parents and medical ethicists want every baby born in the country to be screened for many more. Newborn screening programs for genetic and metabolic disorders vary across Canada. Unlike in the U.S., no federal body offers recommendations or guidelines."

<http://www.cbc.ca/story/science/national/2005/03/08/newborn-screen050308.html?print>

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GENERAL INTEREST

Asia Tsunami 2004: The Challenges of Disabled Survivors - (*A Special [Disability News Ticker](#) feature*). "On December 26th, 2004 14 countries felt direct effects from an earthquake that took place far below the surface of the Indian Ocean. The resulting tsunamis which came ashore have killed, injured and displaced hundreds of thousands of people in these countries. There were many people with a disability who survived this catastrophe or were unfortunately part of the staggering death toll in these countries where tsunamis came ashore. In addition, for those living with a disability, the already challenging circumstances in which these people live in some areas has just been multiplied by one hundred times. Here are the stories of these people."

<http://www.abilityinfo.com/ticker/tsunamidisability.html>

Overview of Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) Working in Tsunami-Affected Areas

- "The following information was obtained from a listserv created by the Bank's Disability and Development Team for members of disabled persons organizations (DPOs)."

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALPROTECTION/EXTDISABILITY/0,,contentMDK:20319525%7EpagePK:148956%7EpiPK:216618%7EtheSitePK:282699,00.html>

Cambrian's disability advocate Alcorn MacKay wins prestigious award - "A champion of inclusion and access for the disabled from Cambrian College has been awarded a prestigious provincial award. The Ontario College Administrative Staff Association (OCASA) has honoured Susan Alcorn MacKay, the Director of Disability Services at Cambrian's Glenn Crombie Centre, with the 2005 OCASA Doug Light Award for Administrative Excellence."
<http://www.northernlife.ca/localnewsArticle.asp?6id7-pn=&view=82851>

Disabilities Celebrated as Stepping Stones to Greatness - (*PRNewswire*). Attendees traveled to Washington, D.C. from all across the United States to honor their leaders and recognize that a disability is often just a stepping stone to greatness. It was the 10th Anniversary Leadership Gala for the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), celebrating and recognizing the accomplishments of individuals who have overcome physical obstacles to inspire people everywhere."
http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/050310/flth016_2.html

Jordan's king presented with global disability award - (*Middle East News*). "Jordan's King Abdullah II accepted a global disability award for his country's work in improving the lives of its physically challenged citizens, saying free societies must provide equal opportunities to all. The Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award, named after the late US President whose legs were crippled by polio, was presented yesterday by Anna Eleanor Roosevelt."
<http://www.newkerala.com/news-daily/news/features.php?action=fullnews&id=89932>

Matt Bell; Ski Patroller - Paraplegic - by Heather Burke. "Matt Bell is not your average ski patrol, he is the first handicapped National Ski Patrollers in the East, one of two such skiers certified as patrollers in the country, and the only disabled Director of Patrol. Instead of the official term 'disabled,' Matt prefers the term 'adaptive.' 'Everyone has to adapt, able-bodied people have to adapt too,' said Bell, who works as patrol director at Black Mountain. At the age of 19, Matt was paralyzed from the waist down in a snowmobile accident. His sled went airborne off an embankment at the edge of a potato field. He landed upright, bursting his Vertebrae T11 and 12, severing his spinal column and shattering his left ankle."
<http://paralinks.net/paralinksarchives/mattbell.html>

Town for deaf to be designed round world of silence - (*The Guardian*). "Architects and town planners yesterday began drawing up blueprints for the first town built entirely for deaf people in the US. Almost 100 families, from London to Australia, have reserved space in the South Dakota village, where all business will be conducted in sign language. Future residents hope to become fully integrated in the day-to-day life, with every element designed specifically for deaf or hard of hearing people. Buildings will incorporate glass for increased visibility, emergency services will rely on lights as opposed to sirens, while shops, restaurants, petrol stations, hotels and schools will be required to use sign language."
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,1443147,00.html>

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Government

CANADA

Disabled Peoples' International receives funding to help greater inclusion of women, youth, and indigenous peoples with disabilities - (CNW *Telbec*). "The Honourable Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board and Member of Parliament for Winnipeg Centre, on behalf of the Honourable Ken Dryden, Minister of Social Development, today announced \$35,000 under the Social Development Partnerships Program - Disability component, for Disabled Peoples' International. This funding will support the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in Canadian society."

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/March2005/21/c7120.html>

Government of Canada provides \$900,000 to support persons with disabilities in British Columbia - "Ken Dryden, Minister of Social Development, and David L. Emerson, Minister of Industry and Member of Parliament for Vancouver Kingsway, today announced \$902,421 for three projects to help support the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in Canadian society. 'It is a priority for the Government of Canada to help persons with disabilities become fully included in society,' said Minister Dryden. 'We want all Canadians to have the opportunity to contribute to the economic and social life of their country. I am very pleased that we can provide this support.' 'The Government of Canada is proud to contribute to these projects. Today's announcement is good news for persons with disabilities, for British Columbia, and indeed for all Canadians,' said Minister Emerson. The BC Centre for Ability received \$600,000 through the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities to support its Community Coordination Program. This program will help 75 eligible unemployed persons with disabilities in the communities of Burnaby, New Westminster, Vancouver, Richmond, and the North Shore to prepare for, obtain, and keep employment."

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/March2005/15/c5052.html>

Increased Supports For People Most In Need - "The Province will invest another \$1.25 million to boost supports to two existing programs for British Columbians who are most in need – including persons with persistent multiple barriers and persons with disabilities. Effective May 1, 2005, the government will raise the Comforts Allowance provided to income assistance clients residing in a special care facility, alcohol or drug treatment facility from \$85 to \$95 per month. The Comforts Allowance is intended to cover the cost of personal items while a client is in a facility where their basic nutritional and support needs are being met. It is estimated that approximately 4,500 people will benefit from this increase."

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_news_releases/2005MHR0004-000314.htm

New Homes Benefit People With Disabilities - "People with permanent disabilities will benefit from a new housing development that opened today in Nanaimo's downtown core. 'Those who need it the most in Nanaimo will be able to live in a quality environment and continue to contribute to their communities,' said the Honourable Senator Jack Austin, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing."

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_news_releases/2005MCAWS0025-000352.htm

UNITED STATES

Bush Budget Proposes Halt in Housing Aid for Disabled - by David W. Chen (*The New York Times*). "With little fanfare, the Bush administration is proposing to stop financing the construction of new housing for the mentally ill and physically handicapped as part of a 50 percent cut in its housing budget for people with disabilities. The proposal, which has been overshadowed by the administration's plans to shrink its community development programs, affects what is known as the Section 811 program. . . . The Department of Housing and Urban Development did not respond to repeated requests for comment over the last week. But the proposal appears to comport with the administration's broader determination to trim domestic programs in the face of record deficits."
<http://www.aapd.com/News/disability/housingaid.html>

Disability Insurance Side of Social Security Raises Questions - by Alan B. Krueger (*NYTimes*). "Disability insurance could be the Achilles' heel of President Bush's efforts to carve personal accounts out of Social Security (although there is a lot of competition for that distinction). The program faces challenges that are at least as daunting as those on the retirement side of Social Security, and fitting the existing program into a system of personal accounts could have serious unintended consequences." (Note that you need to register to access this article. Registration is free.).
<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/03/business/03scene.html>

Disability memorial unopposed in House - by Roger Snodgrass. "Disabled people have a term for non-disabled people, 'They're called TABs, for 'temporarily able bodied,' said Mary Beresford, executive director of the Governor's Commission on Disability. 'If you live long enough,' she added, 'you will be disabled.' During the partisan grind of a typical 60-day legislative session, unanimity is a rare and largely unnoticed quality."
http://www.lamonitor.com/articles/2005/03/01/headline_news/news05.txt

Senate Kills All Medicaid Cuts From Budget - "The Senate voted Thursday to strip all proposed Medicaid cuts from the \$2.6 trillion budget for next year, killing the heart of the plan's deficit reduction and dealing an embarrassing setback to President Bush and Republican leaders. . . . The Medicaid cuts could still be revived when the House and Senate try writing a compromise budget next month. The more conservative House was voting Thursday on a similar budget that would make way for up to \$20 billion in Medicaid savings."
<http://www.aapd.com/News/medicaid/SenateKillsCuts.html>

Videos mark, explain disability act - (*United Press International*). "The Justice Department released two new videos Friday to make it easier for businesses to understand and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The act bans discrimination against the disabled. One video, 'ADA Signing Ceremony,' documents former President George H.W. Bush's signing the ADA into law July 26, 1990. The 22-minute video was provided by the George Bush Presidential Library. It is being re-released on the Internet and on DVD to increase

awareness of the ADA in advance of the 15th anniversary of the law's signing, which will be celebrated on July 26."

<http://www.wpherald.com/storyview.php?StoryID=20050318-013040-9474r>

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Health

Saskatchewan First To Have Province-Wide Access To Best Health Care Research -

"Simultaneous Open Houses at libraries in Regina, Yorkton, and Prince Albert today officially signaled Saskatchewan as the first province in Canada to provide all residents with free internet access to the most reliable, up-to-date research evidence available on health care interventions. Individuals and health care providers in this province can now log on to The Cochrane Library (www.thecochranelibrary.com), a large Internet database designed to help providers make evidence-based treatment decisions and inform patients about the care they receive."

<http://www.hqc.sk.ca/portal.jsp?sLw+N7/9KTNVeXdPxqt+hzBlzBf0QfLQkUwK4QBZaJsk50J6lwuBaB9LArQ8iwmpjM5VwD6WZjg=>

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LEGAL

ADA Regulations at Heart of State Sovereignty Battle - By Carole Carlson (*Post-Tribune staff writer*). "In what could become a landmark case, the U.S. Department of Justice is set to clash with the Indiana Attorney General's office Thursday in a case that pits the Americans with Disabilities Act against state sovereignty. U.S. District Judge Philip Simon will hear oral arguments from lawyers Department of Justice and the state's Attorney General's office at 1 p.m. in his Hammond courtroom. The case stems from a class-action suit filed in 1998 by the Everybody Counts Center for Independent Living, a not-for-profit Merrillville advocacy agency, and eight local residents with disabilities."

<http://www.spinalcord.org/news.php?dep=1&page=0&list=489>

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MEDICAL

NEWS

Attention deficit drug being pulled from market - (*Reuters*). "Abbott Laboratories said Thursday it was halting sales of a 30-year-old attention deficit drug that a consumer group complained was too dangerous to stay on the market. Abbott decided to discontinue the drug, Cylert, because of declining sales, Abbott spokeswoman Melissa Brotz said. The drug's sales this year will be less than \$1 million, she said. Brotz declined to comment on charges made earlier Thursday from consumer group Public Citizen that the drug had caused 21 cases of liver failure, including 13 that were fatal or required transplants."

<http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/nation/3101421>

FDA Approves New Innovative Cochlear Implant System - (PR Newswire). "Cochlear Americas announced today that it recently received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market the Nucleus(R) Freedom(TM) cochlear implant system. The Nucleus Freedom, which features both an internal component and an external speech processor, will begin shipping to clinics on April 3, 2005. The Nucleus Freedom is designed to mimic functions of the human ear and fit seamlessly into a user's lifestyle."
http://www.deaftoday.com/v3/archives/2005/03/fda_approves_ne.html

Inhalers may replace needles in diabetes breakthrough - by André Picard. (*The Globe and Mail*). "In the eight decades since Canadian scientists developed a life-saving treatment for diabetes, sufferers have always had to inject insulin to control blood sugar. While monitoring and treatment have improved and needles are smaller, the bothersome injections, several times a day, have remained a mainstay of life as a diabetic. But that could soon change. Drug companies are preparing to unveil inhaled insulin, a powdered form of the drug that is taken with an inhaler similar to those used by asthmatics. The product, which has been extensively tested, could revolutionize diabetes treatment and shake up the \$3-billion (U.S.) annual market for injection insulin. 'I think this would rank as one of the biggest developments since the discovery of insulin,' said Dr. Ronnie Aronson, an endocrinologist and director of the Lifestyle Metabolism Centres, a Toronto-based weight-loss centre that caters to diabetics."
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20050330.HINSULIN30/BNPrint/theglobeandmail/>

New MS Drug Faces Voluntary Market Withdrawal - by John C. Martin. "The makers of a recently approved medication for multiple sclerosis have voluntarily removed the product from the market after reports of serious adverse events involving two patients. The drug, known as natalizumab and marketed as Tysabri, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as recently as this past November. It is indicated as a therapy for the relapses, or exacerbations, that occur in multiple sclerosis. However, the two companies that make the medication, Biogen Idec and Elan Corporation, decided to withdraw it after it was learned one patient taking a combination of Tysabri and the MS drug Avonex (interferon beta-1a) had died. Another developed a serious condition of the central nervous system known as progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML). PML is a demyelinating disease that is frequently fatal. Both patients had been taking the combination of the two medications for more than 2 years."
http://www.msneighborhood.com/content/in_the_news/archive_2213.aspx

'Safer' stem cells bring therapies closer - "Completely fresh supplies of human embryonic stem cells have been created for the first time without having to grow them on potentially contaminating mouse 'feeder' cells. Nor do they need to be nourished with serum derived from animals. The breakthrough boosts the prospects of growing safe tissues for transplant from embryonic stem cells - the unspecialised, primitive cells in the embryo from which all tissues originate."
<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn7116>

Scientists Regenerate Optic Nerve for the First Time - "For the first time, scientists have regenerated a damaged optic nerve -- the nerve that connects the eye to the brain. This

achievement, which occurred in laboratory mice and is described in the March 1, 2005 issue of the Journal of Cell Science, holds great promise for victims of diseases that destroy the optic nerve and for sufferers of central nervous system injuries."

<http://www.visionconnection.org/Content/Research/News/scientistsregenerateopticnervefortheirst+time.htm>

Separate Genes Influence Speed, Accuracy in Decoding Written Words in Dyslexia -

"Researchers trying to tease out the genetic basis of dyslexia have discovered a location on chromosome 2 that may contain one or more genes that contribute to the reading disorder and make it difficult for people to rapidly pronounce pseudowords. . . . The study, published in the March issue of the journal Molecular Psychiatry, is noteworthy for two reasons. First, it points to a new location containing genes that contribute to dyslexia. Second, the gene or genes at that location are involved in speed of decoding – changing written words into spoken words without clues to their meaning – a basic and persistent component of dyslexia."

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/510801/>

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RESEARCH

Experimental MS Drug Enters Final Clinical Tests - by John C. Martin. "An investigational treatment for one type of multiple sclerosis is entering the final stage in a series of clinical trials to test its safety and effectiveness. The medication only has a scientific code for now: MBP8298. The drug is designed for people with secondary progressive MS, which affects just under half of all those with the disease around the world."

http://www.msneighborhood.com/content/in_the_news/archive_2216.aspx

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MEDIA

Art that can make sense of a hidden disability - by Laura Davis (*Daily Post*). "For some it's the inability to remember the recent past that sets them apart, burning the bottom of the saucepan yet again because they've forgotten they put it on the hob or not being able to concentrate long enough to read a whole page in a book. For others it's their quick temper, feeling unusually aggressive in a queue to buy tickets at the station. But for most people with brain injuries it's the fact that they appear 'normal' on the surface that is the real difficulty. Around 1m people in the UK suffer a head injury each year and for a small minority life will never be the same. They are left to cope with a hidden disability - behavioural and emotional changes and problems with their thinking skills like memory, concentration and organisation. This is the subject of an arts project carried out by mental health trust Mersey Care that has culminated in an exhibition opening at Liverpool's Conservation Centre today, coinciding with Brain Injuries Awareness Week."

http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/entertainment/previewsandreviews/tm_objectid=15295429&method=full&siteid=50061&headline=art-that-can-make-sense-of-a-hidden-disability-name_page.html

DN online shortlisted for top gong - "The DN [Disability Now] team is celebrating after being shortlisted for one of the most prestigious media awards in the industry. It is the first time the team's efforts have won recognition on the shortlist for the annual awards of the Periodical Publishers' Association (PPA). A revamp of the website last summer, combined with strong links to the paper version of DN, caused PPA judges to choose DN as a finalist in the Interactive consumer magazine of the year category."

http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/news/news_apr_022.htm

Playwright offers views of disability - by Judith Egerton (*The Courier-Journal*). "Playwright John Belluso is a disability expert. Living with a rare genetic bone disorder that weakens the muscles has a way of making you one. And the experience of living with a noticeable disability is a driving force behind the Rhode Island native's new play, 'A Nervous Smile,' the second entry in this year's Humana Festival of New American Plays."

<http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050304/SCENE05/50303020>

Why Disability Studies Matters -by Lennard J. Davis (*zmag*). "You know there is something wrong when 100 of the major film critics in the United States say that Clint Eastwood's film *Million Dollar Baby* is a great work and every disability scholar and activist rails against the movie. The film continues to garner praise and awards -- a Director's Guild Award for Eastwood, seven Academy Award nominations, as well as Best Actress and Director Golden Globes -- while in Chicago and Berkeley people using wheel chairs, service dogs, and red-tipped canes organized protests at which they held up signs that read 'Disability Is Not a Death Sentence' and 'Not Dead Yet.'"

<http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=108&ItemID=7489>

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POLICY/RESEARCH

As strong as the weakest link: An incentive to development organisations and governments to make disability an integrated element of policy and action - Generally speaking, disability is 'invisible' in development cooperation. . . . But no development target will be attainable if disability is not incorporated in the mainstream of every development policy and every action. . . This text is a translation of a Dutch DCDD brochure 'Zo sterk als de zwakste schakel'. The Dutch brochure can be ordered by sending an e-mail to dcdd@dcdd.nl or visit the webpage www.dcdd.nl?2485."

http://www.disabilityworld.org/12-02_05/news/dcdd.shtml

B.C. To Participate In Groundbreaking Autism Study - "British Columbia is the newest partner in a five-year cross-Canada study of children with autism spectrum disorder, Linda Reid, minister of state for early childhood development, announced today. 'This is an exciting opportunity for B.C. to participate in a truly groundbreaking study – the largest of its kind in Canada,' said Reid. 'The study will help guide the development of policies, programs and interventions which will directly benefit children with autism and their families.' An estimated 100 BC children with diagnosed autism spectrum disorder will participate in the study – Autism Spectrum Disorders: Pathways to Better Outcomes – bringing the total number of children involved to 500. The study will follow these children over a period of five

years, with the purpose of identifying child, family, health services and community factors associated with both positive and challenging outcomes."

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_news_releases/2005MCF0007-000370.htm

Canadian Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2004 - "This annual report will outline further improvements the Commission has made by developing and implementing a new business model to deliver its mandates under the *Canadian Human Rights Act* and the *Employment Equity Act* more effectively and efficiently. Changes such as putting more focus on mediation and streamlining the investigation process are having an impact on how effectively human rights complaints can be resolved. Two years after launching the reforms, the Commission is succeeding in reducing the caseload. The average age of the Commission's caseload has declined from over 25 months in 2002 to about 12 months now, an improvement of 50%. With more fine-tuning, the new model should help the Commission improve its performance even more."

http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca/publications/ar_2004_ra/toc_tdm-en.asp

http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca/pdf/AR_2004_RA_en.pdf

Deaf Study Survey On-Line - "My name is Patrick Boudreault and I am a Deaf doctoral student at the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada. I am looking for Deaf – deaf – Hard-of-Hearing individuals to participate in an on-line survey. I hope you are willing to give your time to complete this survey, which you can do in either written English or American Sign Language through video playback. The survey will take you approximately 60 minutes to complete. You can respond to the survey from anywhere with a computer that has a high-speed Internet connection."

http://www.deaftoday.com/v3/archives/2005/03/deaf_study_surv.html

Forum on Early Literacy Screening to Promote School Success - "The National Center for Learning Disabilities hosted a one-day *Forum on Early Literacy Screening to Promote School Success* on February 23, 2005 at the Cafritz Conference Center in Washington, D.C. Over 100 participants attended the forum, which focused on key questions regarding challenges, opportunities, available resources, and future needs and directions concerning early literacy screening and policy . . . [included is] the [agenda](#), with links to speaker presentations including audio files, transcripts, PowerPoints, related references and bios. Listen to [audio files](#) from the forum. Read pre-publication drafts of the forum papers."

<http://www.ld.org/earlyliteracyscreeningforum/index.cfm>

Genetic Technology and the UN Disability Convention - by Majid Turmusani (*Disability World*). "This short paper argues that medical debate on genetic technology such as food modification and cloning, has contributed to the emergence of the notion of the 'perfect body', which in some way works against minority groups such as people with impairments. Such debates have political implications on society's policies and practices towards people with disabilities."

http://www.disabilityworld.org/12-02_05/news/genetictech.shtml

Inclusive Cities Canada released social inclusion audit reports - "Inclusive Cities Canada released social inclusion audit reports today in five cities – Saint John, Toronto, Burlington, Edmonton and Vancouver/North Vancouver (preliminary report). [Civic Panels](#) made up of

community and municipal leaders to conduct inclusion audits. The research was carried out by social planning organizations in each of the partner cities. Over 1,000 people participated in focus groups and local soundings across Canada." Although the reports found many positive indications of social inclusion they also found "On the other hand, the reports also found ". . . a growing income polarization and the marginalization of vulnerable people, such as Aboriginal populations, gay, lesbian and transgendered peoples, seniors, and people with disabilities . . ."

<http://www.inclusivecities.ca/developments/index.html>

National Council on Disability Launches New Disability Listserv - (*U.S. Newswire*). "The National Council on Disability (NCD) today launched a new disability listserv that will provide critical information on issues affecting people with disabilities, including a monthly newsletter known as the NCD Bulletin, news releases, legislative updates, and other newsworthy items. The NCD listserv will be maintained by the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), which currently operates 19 government listservs (<http://listserv.access.gpo.gov/>). Use of GPO as the site administrator will help maintain system integrity."

<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=44911>

New book on history of blindness in Canada sure to open eyes - "It wasn't easy for Euclid Herie to write objectively about the proposed sterilization of blind married couples in the 1930s. The first-time author who lost his vision to congenital cataracts when he was 16 was understandably angered at the suggestion presented to The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) that steps should be taken to ensure blind couples could not bear children. Nor was it easy to withhold bias to chronicle the struggle for information materials in alternative formats, the struggle for gainful employment with visually impaired workers moving from sheltered workshops to mainstream offices, and the struggle for changes in government policy. But his goal in writing *Journey to Independence: Blindness – The Canadian Story* was not to criticize or judge, but clearly tell the history of blindness in Canada."

<http://www.cnib.ca/eng/media-centre/stories/blind-history-book.htm>

Request for Survey Instrumentation - "The Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) published a notice in the Monday, March 21, 2005, issue of the Federal Register calling for existing survey instruments that have been used to examine the health care experience of people with disabilities. The goal is to create a new instrument for people with disabilities that can be used widely. NIDRR is supporting this overall activity through an Interagency Agreement with AHRQ. The 'call for instruments' closes on Friday, May 20, 2005. You can access the Federal Register notice by html or pdf:"

http://www.ncddr.org/new/announcements/3_05FR_FRHQ.html

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REHABILITATION

Justifications for wheelchair accessories have to take into account a wide range of factors - "Manual wheelchairs have evolved over the years with many advances in materials and design. Titanium and carbon fiber materials are allowing lighter wheelchairs and components. Research has shown that full-time wheelchair users prefer adjustable

axle, lightweight wheelchairs (K0005 Medicare code) compared to standard weight (K001) or high-strength lightweight nonadjustable (K0004) wheelchairs. A wheelchair user can also benefit from a wheelchair with an adjustable rear axle to improve speed and efficiency of propulsion. Rear wheel camber, as well as many other options, can also affect the efficiency at which end users can propel themselves. The lighter, adjustable wheelchairs tend to be more expensive. For example, a fully accessorized titanium wheelchair can cost more than \$5,000. In the current health insurance climate, medical justification is critical to ensure payment for wheelchairs and the components."
<http://www.rehabpub.com/features/42005/6.asp>

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SELF HELP

ADHD: Not Just For Kids Anymore - by Terry Matlen. "Up until the mid 1980's, it was widely believed by physicians and psychologists that ADHD was outgrown by the time a child hit adolescence. Surprise! Though many clinicians still hold on to this belief, it is now accepted by many in the medical community that childhood ADHD does indeed continue into adulthood. As a matter of fact, the DSM-IV, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, describes just that."
<http://www.chaddnorcal.org/newsletter/articles/notjustkids.htm>

Dyslexia - Parents' And Teachers' Collaboration - "This EU-project is designed for a period of two years and started in August 2004. It includes a SYMPOSIUM in Austria in October 2005. The end product will be a guide on dyslexia in several languages useful for parents, teachers, specialists and school authorities."
http://dyslexia_projectinfo.phgraz.at/

The Perspectives Network - "The Perspectives Network, Inc.'s primary focus is positive communication between persons with brain injury, family members/ caregivers/friends of persons with brain injury, those many professionals who treat persons with brain injury and community members in order to create positive changes and enhance public awareness and knowledge of acquired/traumatic brain injury."
<http://www.tbi.org/>

Welfare Resource Guide for Women (2nd Edition - March 2005) - " Welcome to the Vancouver Status of Women's Welfare Resource Guide for Women in BC. This guide provides general information to women about British Columbia's welfare system or Employment and Assistance Regulations. In particular, the Guide especially focuses on the needs of single mothers. The laws regarding welfare have changed significantly and we have attempted to provide up to date information as of February 2005 . . . This Guide is meant to help you apply for the welfare, disability and child benefits you are entitled to. It is also meant to offer guidance on problems that you may run into in the process."
<http://www.vsw.ca/welfarebooklet.htm>

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CONFERENCES

(☀ Conferences listed for the first time in DRD)

ONLINE

DSS Policy: Accommodating Students With Disabilities With Off-Campus Placements: Who and How? - April 05, 2005 | Internet. "Postsecondary schools continually struggle to accommodate students with disabilities with internships, student teaching, clinical assignments, co-op assignments, and other off-campus placements. Questions from how to find appropriate field assignments to who bears the costs associated with accommodations to when/what kinds of disclosure are necessary, all play a significant part when it comes to accommodating students in these types of placements."
http://www.thompsoninteractive.com/dss_details.asp?id=303&priority=FKYG32636

CANADIAN

AT the Edge 2005 - April 14-15, 2005 | Edmonton, Alberta. "AT the EDGE 2005... will showcase assistive technology use by all disability and age groups within education, lifelong learning, employment, and recreation."
www.acrat.ca

Crime prevention and people with disabilities - April 28-30 2005 | Ottawa, Ontario. "This Symposium will initiate an inclusive dialogue on crime prevention and persons with disabilities, first time responders, government representatives, and community agencies with the purpose of sharing strategies, initiatives and developing recommendations to keep the momentum going."
<http://www.cailc.ca/CAILC/graphic/crimeprevention/generalinfo/generalinfo.html>

Canadian Disability Studies Association (CDSA) 2nd Annual Conference - May 31 - June 1, 2005 | London, Ontario. "Conference Theme: Paradoxes of Citizenship: Environments, Exclusions, Equity The Canadian Disabilities Studies Association is planning its second annual conference as part of The Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2005. The theme for this year is very relevant to disability studies, and provides an opportunity to discuss the challenges, as well as the richness of diversity that contribute to our unique culture."
<http://www.disabilitystudies.ca/cdsacall.htm>

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association Conference and Annual General Meeting - June 2-5, 2005 | Kelowna, British Columbia.
http://www.chha.ca/conference/conference_index.htm

☀ **2005 Carp National Conference - The Truth & Perils of Rehabilitation Practice: Exploring the Consequences of Rehabilitation Intervention.** - June 15-17, 2005 | Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. "Rehabilitation Professionals are becoming more and more accountable in the delivery of services to persons with disabilities as well as to agencies and institutions, which ultimately provide sponsorship for these services. This conference will

examine the impact of rehabilitation intervention in terms of the psychosocial, vocational, medical-legal, and financial consequences of our intervention."

http://www.carpatlantic.org/conference_national_2005.php

12th Biennial Canadian Social Welfare Policy Conference - June 16-18, 2005 | Fredericton, New Brunswick. "The Forging Social Futures Conference will provide a bilingual forum for citizens, scholars, and individuals working in government, university, non-profit, and voluntary settings to work toward forging more responsive and equitable policies, programs, and practices in the social policy arena in Canada and abroad. The primary goals of this cross-sector, cross-disciplinary, and cross-national conference are to generate new data and theories, stimulate collaborative synergies, envision novel policy ideas, and maximize knowledge exchange and mobilization."

<http://www.unb.ca/gsa/conf.html>

CAG 2005 Navigating Aging Adjusting the Sails to meet the Winds of Change - October 20-23, 2005 | Halifax, Nova Scotia. "The theme for this year's conference was inspired by an anonymous quote - 'We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sail.' We cannot change the reality of a rapidly aging society. The demographics of the future are well known. However, there is much that all disciplines in the field of gerontology, government, the non-profit sector and individuals, including seniors and baby-boomers, can do to have a direct impact on aging in Canada."

http://www.cagacq.ca/english/410_e.php

Festival of International Conferences on Disability, Aging & Technology - June 16-19, 2007 | Toronto, Ontario. "Welcome to the site of the Festival of International Conferences on Disability, Aging and Technology. FICDAT will include four important conferences running concurrently as well as many joint events."

<http://www.ficdat.ca/en/festival.php>

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U.S.

2005 CEC Convention & Expo - April 6-9, 2005 | Baltimore, Maryland. "Give new education materials and resources to students with disabilities and gifts a trial run at CEC Exhibit Hall. More than 300 exhibitors bring you the latest and most innovative resources and materials for students with special needs."

http://www.cec.sped.org/conventions/maryland_2005/

2005 ADA Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion, and Disability Conference - April 11-13, 2005 | Columbus, Ohio. "The Fifth Annual Multiple Perspectives conference will encourage reflection on sameness, difference and equity while providing an opportunity to share practical information, explore current research and develop collaborations. The conference will continue its tradition of bringing together a diverse audience (individuals and employers, students and educators, advocates and policy makers, consumers and service agencies) to reflect on the many dimensions of disability."

<http://ada.osu.edu/conferences/2005program.htm>

MindFreedom 2005 Action Conference in D.C. - April 29 - May 2, 2005 | Washington, D.C.

"This conference will bring together key leaders, activists and advocates in the field of human rights for people labeled with psychiatric disabilities to support grassroots community organizing campaigns for human rights and alternatives in the mental health system, especially campaigns that are led by psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers. The conference will focus on grassroots activism, as well as on how the law can assist these campaigns."

http://www.mindfreedom.org/mindfreedom/action_conference.shtml

Ninth International Conference on Post-Polio Health and Ventilator-Assisted Living: Strategies for Living Well - June 2-4, 2005 | Saint Louis, Missouri. "Purpose and goals of presentations are intended to:

1. Promote greater understanding of and opportunities for healthy living by people with disabilities, specifically the survivors of polio and those who use mechanical ventilation.
2. Promote greater awareness of the power of self-help and of the independent living philosophy.
3. Propose solutions to major issues facing people with disabilities.
4. Report on the latest research, programs and developments related to post-polio myelitis and other neuromuscular respiratory conditions.
5. Facilitate enhanced interaction between people with disabilities and health care professionals."

<http://www.post-polio.org/>

17th Annual Postsecondary Disability Training Institute (PTI) - June 7-11, 2005 | Portland, Maine.

"Come learn skills you'll use every day! The objective of this Training Institute is to assist concerned professionals to meet the unique needs of college students with disabilities. Participants can select from a variety of Strands and Single Sessions taught by experts in the field that provide participants with in-depth information and adequate time for questions and follow-up activities. Participants also have opportunities to share information and network with each other at various activities throughout the week."

<http://vm.uconn.edu/~wwwcped/05pti.htm>

RESNA's 28th International Conference on Technology & Disability - June 23-27, 2005 |

Atlanta, Georgia. "RESNA takes the 2005 Conference to Atlanta, GA, where assistive technology's leading researchers, renowned clinicians, and policy experts will create a conference program with unmatched levels of knowledge and expertise."

www.resna.org

 **32nd Annual Conference - Building Bridges to Advance Understanding** - June 26-29, 2005

| Minneapolis, Minnesota. "The Spina Bifida Association of America is joining with the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IF) to present a Conference that is multi-cultural and multi-national. At this conference we will be "Building Bridges to Advance Understanding." We are a vital and international community. At this year's Conference we will share the victories and concerns that unite all of us who live with spina bifida around the world. The Conference will offer the most current information about the latest advances in orthopedics, urology, neurosurgery and neuropsychology, as well as

adult health, psychosocial and family issues, employment, sex, depression, latex allergy, self-determination and learning disabilities.

http://www.sbaa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=sbaa_conference_2005

- ✿ **Instructional Technology and Education of the Deaf** - June 27-30, 2005 | Rochester, New York. "The program will focus on the education of deaf students in K-12 and postsecondary environments using technology from around the world. Among international participants, there will be representation from five international postsecondary programs serving deaf students. These professionals will present and discuss issues related to technology and education."

<http://www.rit.edu/~techsym/>

ICORR 2005: IEEE 9th International Conference on Rehabilitation Robotics - June 28 - July 1, 2005 | Chicago, Illinois. "CORR highlights the most recent advances in the basic sciences of rehabilitation robotics. This conference will focus on a number of topics, including the themes of:

- Assistive Robotics
- Therapeutic Robotics
- Brain-machine Interfaces for Rehabilitation
- Robotics in Prosthetics and Orthotics
- Hardware and Control Developments for Rehabilitation
- Evaluation Methods and Clinical Experience
- Biorobotics and Biomimetics
- Basic Science and Sensory/Motor Control Learning"

<http://www.smpp.nwu.edu/ICORR2005/>

2005 NCIL IL Conference - July 11-14, 2005 | Washington, D.C. "For Centers for Independent Living and Statewide Independent Living Councils there is nothing more important to their mission and philosophy than advocacy and systems change. Each one of us can and must promote and actively work for the integration and inclusion of all people with disabilities into all aspects of our communities."

<http://www.ncil.org/Conferences/index.html>

AHEAD 2005 - August 2-6, 2005 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "Meeting the Profession"

www.ahead.org/

Alliance for Full Participation 2005 Summit - September 22-23, 2005 | Washington, D.C. "The Alliance for Full Participation will host a 2005 Summit: Many Voices, One Vision in Washington DC to bring together those committed to making the promises inherent in the Developmental Disabilities Act for Americans a reality. Over twelve hundred individuals are expected to attend to help craft a new strategic policy and social agenda in support of full participation, and to carry that agenda forward in their communities following the Summit. Please join us in making full participation a reality."

<http://www.allianceforfullparticipation.org/program/>

- ✿ **The Seventh International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility** – October 9-12, 2005 | Baltimore Maryland. "Computer and Information Technologies have

redesigned the way modern society operates. In particular, they have identified new avenues to assist individuals with special needs and provided tools and resources to alleviate the traditional barriers encountered by persons with disabilities. For example, speech generation systems have assisted persons with visual disabilities, voice recognition has helped people with motor impairments, multi-modal presentations have been shown to be effective in helping people with learning disabilities understand information."

<http://www.acm.org/sigaccess/assets05/>

2005 TASH Conference Call for Presentations - November 9-12, 2005 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "TASH members support practices that promote our resolution that all people, regardless of their label or perceived level of disability, should have the supports they need to direct the course of their own lives, and to live and participate successfully in neighborhood schools and the community. Proposals accepted will demonstrate innovation, collaboration, energy, daring, and all that is possible for people with disabilities and their families. Presentations are encouraged, when possible, to be made by a team that includes individuals with disabilities, family members, advocates, and professionals. We also encourage presentations that are culturally relevant or reflect a wide cultural and linguistic diversity."

<http://www.tash.org/tash2005/index.htm>

IDA 56th Annual Conference - November 9-12, 2005 | Denver, Colorado. "More than 100 EXHIBITORS will showcase their products by demonstrating new technologies and software, and schools, universities and others will highlight their programs!"

http://www.interdys.org/servlet/compose?section_id=7&page_id=213

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OVERSEAS

Vision 2005 - April 4-7, 2005 | London, England. "The fully peer-reviewed conference programme will unveil scientific research and present practice-based work from around the world. Delegates will have the opportunity to take part in interactive round-table debates on subjects of topical and controversial interest."

http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/PublicWebsite/public_v2005speakers.hcsp

3rd. World Congress of International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine - ISPRM - April 10-15, 2005 | Sao Paulo, Brazil. "Come and take part in this event, strengthening and establishing scientific and technological alliances"

<http://www.adtevento.com.br/isprm/site/>

 **Conference on Accessible Biometrics** - 18th May 2005 | DTI London, England. "Biometrics offers the opportunity of authenticating people by who they are (using their fingerprints, face images, voice patterns, etc) - rather than what they remember (e.g. passwords) or what they carry (cards). Recently, there has been a surge of interest with these technologies being proposed for passports and ID cards. Other systems are in use for PC security, payment and even for 'clocking in' at work. Using a biometric in a specific service will help some disabled people, while others may be disadvantaged. Drawing upon the limited experience

in the field, this conference aims to bring together technology suppliers, designers of systems, operators, researchers, standards bodies and people with disabilities to propose realistic solutions."

http://www.tiresias.org/phoneability/biometrics_conference.htm

2nd Congress of the International Society for Vascular Behavioral and Cognitive Disorders (VAS-COG) - June 8-12, 2005 | Florence, Italy. "A special feature of the Florence Congress will be the discussion of standardized, prioritized, clinical, behavioral, neuropsychological, imaging and neuropathological definitions and operational, provisional criteria. Common minimal definitions and criteria are essential to make studies comparable, not only in the future but to generate hypotheses from one existing set of data to be tested on another. The combination of standardized data sets and DNA banking opens up unparalleled opportunities for progress from existing data. Preliminary work will have been done by the VAS-COG working groups, which you are invited to join."

<http://vas-cog.org/vas%2Dcog2005/>

The 20th International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (ICED) - July 17-20, 2005 | Maastricht, the Netherlands. "The world's professional community working in the field of education of people with hearing impairments needs to exchange its ideas, experiences, ongoing innovations and future plans. The 20st International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (ICED) in 2005 is the worldwide activity to meet and exchange. ICED is being organised only each five years, the last Congress took place in Sydney in 2000."

<http://www.conferenceagency.com/>

Assistive technology from virtuality to reality 8th European conference for the advancement of assistive technology in Europe - September 6-9, 2005 | Lille, France. "The Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (AAATE) is organising its 8th conference in Lille, France, in 2005. This biannual conference is an opportunity for people to discuss new developments, trends and research in the field of assistive technology. Following successful conferences held in Ireland, Slovenia, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Sweden and Netherlands, over 200 papers were selected and published at the last AAATE conference in 2003."

<http://www.aaate2005.com/html/aboutaaate.html>

Accessible Design in the Digital World - August 23-25, 2005 | Dundee, Scotland. "The conference will explore the frontiers of inclusive design in the real world. It will examine some of the challenges in both implementing guidelines and meeting legal responsibilities. There will be opportunities for discussion and debate among those at the front-line of design and development work and those providing guidance regarding accessible and inclusive design."

<http://www.accessinthedigitalworld.org/2005/>

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