

TROUBLE FOR TRUNCATED DOMES

Detectable warnings are sometimes helpful for people with visual impairments, but they do not provide a definitive solution to successful detection and crossing of intersections, according to a report drafted by the staff of the US Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board).

The report on detectable warnings research, presented at the Access Board's November 1994 meeting, stated, "The research concluded that what appears to be needed at some intersections is a reinforcing cue which... indicates or confirms that an intersection has been reached. Although truncated domes provide a useful cue, other technologies could be as effective and less costly."

The goal of the research, sponsored by the Access Board and performed by researchers in the College of Human Resources at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, was to investigate the need for and effectiveness of detectable warnings at curb ramps and to determine whether detectable warnings at curb ramps and at hazardous vehicular areas are barriers to other pedestrians.

One of the researchers'

See *Truncated Domes*, page 11



This public dock is for recreational boats and the water shuttle between the Charlestown, MA, Navy Yard and downtown Boston.

ACCESS TO BOATING FACILITIES

by Katherine McGuinness

This is the third in a series of articles in Universal Design Newsletter on the new recreation recommendations.

What makes boating facilities accessible? This one question was the focus of a year's consideration for the ATBCB's Recreation Access Advisory Committee.

The US Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) convened an advisory committee to help develop new American for Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) for outdoor recreation facilities, including boating fa-

See *Access to Boating Facilities*, page 4

CONTENTS

- 1 **Trouble for Truncated Domes**
- 1 **Access to Boating Facilities**
- 5 **Unisex Toilets Under Review**
- 6 **Captioning in Movie Theaters**
- 7 **ASAP Discusses Accessible Telecommunications**
- 8 **UDEP Update**

Departments

- FedWatch 3
- New Media 7
- Design Tips 8
- New Products 9
- Calendar 12



A Challenge You Can't Ignore!!

Never before has there been such an opportunity to affect national accessibility standards.

For the next several months, both the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and the American National Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities (ANSI A117.1) are being reviewed, revised, coordinated and updated. Suggestions and input are being sought from all interested parties. The Access Board and the Council of American Building Officials (CABO) are simultaneously cooperating in a historic effort to simplify the process of designing and building accessible facilities. Their respective review committees are holding separate, but coordinated, meetings to update the two documents. It is even possible (if wishes come true) that the two documents could become one.

I have been given the unique opportunity to sit on both review committees, representing the American

Institute of Architects (AIA), and the American Hotel & Motel Association, in what we all hope will be a process that results in one national standard — a locally enforceable building code that meets the criteria established by the ADA.

But we can't be successful without your input. The AIA has established a special forum on its nationwide electronic information service, AIA Online, to allow any architect to review and suggest proposed changes. I challenge each and every architect to respond and add value to this process.

In addition, as a federally appointed task force, the ADAAG Review Committee's meetings and documents are open for public review and comments. Anyone can call 202.272.5434 and make their views known. In similar fashion, CABO has distributed a public announcement asking for recommended changes to ANSI A117.1. They can be contacted at 703.931.4533.

1995 should be a year for consolidation, change and improvement in accessibility standards. I challenge you to take this opportunity to participate in improving these standards!

LETTERS to the
EDITOR

Copyright 1995 UD&C - Authorization to photocopy items for the internal or personal use of specific subscribers is granted by **Universal Design Newsletter**. Any other reproduction in any form is prohibited without express permission from the Publisher. **Universal Design Newsletter** is published quarterly by Universal Designers & Consultants, Inc., 1700 Rockville Pike, Ste. 110, Rockville, MD, 20852 301.770.7890 (V/T/T/Y) 301.770.4338 (fax). John P.S. Salmen, AIA - Publisher & Managing Editor; Diane V. Phelps - Editor; James DiLuigi and Elaine Ostroff - Consulting Editors; Denise Hofstedt - Writer

Mail subscription rates: One year \$75.00 (US). Second Class Postage paid at Rockville, MD. Postmaster send address changes to **Universal Design Newsletter**, 1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 110, Rockville, MD. 20852. For information on advertising rates or obtaining alternative accessible formats, please call or write the **Universal Design Newsletter** Editor.

Thank you for mentioning the Raynes Rail in the October 1994 issue of *Universal Design Newsletter*. However, I believe that your readers deserve to know more

about our design. Twenty years ago I conceived the possibility of a handrail that would incorporate Braille messages and developed the concept into a product after the passage of the federal ADA regulations. However, by combining continuous Braille messages on its inner face with audio devices at strategic locations, the Raynes Rail goes beyond the ADA to become a universal design. The rail gives all travelers, including those with visual impairments, a degree of independence previously unattainable, especially in new surroundings.

I had the privilege of working with a most distinguished team of Braille consultants from the Carrol Center for the Blind, and several rehabilitation instructors from the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind in the development of this system. Our two-phase testing process used different teams of consultants to prevent bias and to increase our insight. Among other details, we found that to avoid disorientation and to provide fast reading, we needed to develop a specific grade-2 Braille vo-

cabulary. Furthermore, we found that we could enhance wayfinding by carefully selecting the environmental information and presenting that information in messages that never exceed 16 inches in length. By providing the rail in several ergonomic profiles and in a variety of materials, the rail is suitable for indoor or outdoor installations that blend with a wide variety of architectural styles and facility types.

The Raynes Rail eliminates the stigma of a blind person's "clumsy search" along the corridor, at 5 feet above the floor, in search of a Braille door sign. Nobody else has to grope like this, so why should blind people?

The Raynes Rail was not created for blind travelers familiar with their surroundings, but to open new routes and to provide direction and security for those who need it.

Dorothy Fowles, Ph.D., professor of interior design at Iowa State University, has defined universal design as "invisible." This means a design with no stigma and the same solution for everyone. I believe that our work follows this philosophy.

Coco Raynes
Boston, MA

New ADAAG Technical Assistance Manual

In October 1994, the US Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) began a 10-month project to clarify the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and to establish a more effective system of notifying the public of revisions.

As part of the project, the Access Board will develop a technical assistance manual that covers the entire ADAAG. The board has worked to clarify sections of the ADAAG by producing technical assistance bulletins, that cover specific areas. The new manual is expected to be a more comprehensive effort, according to Dave Yanchulis of the Access Board.

Another goal of the project is to improve the ways the public is notified of changes to the ADAAG. Revisions currently appear in the *Federal Register* and the Access Board's quarterly newsletter. According to Yanchulis, the board is finding that notices of revisions to the ADAAG are not reaching many of the people interested in the changes, including those in the design field. To improve the distribution of its communications, the development of a subscription-type service is being considered.

ATBCB Technical Assistance Bulletins

The Access Board has available six technical assistance bulletins on the most commonly asked questions about the ADAAG. The bulletins cover the following topics: detectable warnings, visual alarms, text telephones, how to use ADAAG, slip-resistant surfaces, and parking.

The parking bulletin was added in 1994 in response to the overwhelming number of questions the Access Board receives about parking spaces. The bulletin on visual alarms was revised to reflect current technologies; the detectable warnings bulletin was revised to reflect the suspension of the ADAAG requirements (other than at platforms in transportation facilities) until July 1996. The bulletins are available by calling the Access Board at 800.USA.ABLE.

Who's Who at the Access Board

A team of accessibility specialists at the Access Board are always available for help. These people perform a variety of functions, including answering questions from the public, and participating in the board's rule-making process. While all the specialists can answer general questions, they each have a particular area of expertise.

David Capozzi is the director of the Office of Technical and Information Services, the office that houses the board's technical experts.

Marsha Mazz coordinates the technical aspects of rule-making and delivery of technical assistance to the public by the office's accessibility specialists.

Lois Thibault coordinates training sessions on the ADAAG for public and private organizations. The Access Board develops training sessions to address the specific information needs of each audience.

David Yanchulis coordinates research projects for the board.

Dennis Cannon is the expert in the area of transportation facilities and vehicles.

Peggy Greenwell is the staff member most involved in accessibility issues in recreation facilities and outdoor developed areas.

Also on the Access Board staff is Executive Director **Lawrence W. Roffee**, General Counsel **James J. Raggio**, and Assistant General Counsel **Beth Stewart**. **Judith A. Haslam** is director of the Office of Compliance and Enforcement and **Sydni Shollenberger** is the board's director of communications.

To reach the Access Board, call 800.USA.ABLE or 202.272.5434 (V); 202.272.5449 (TTY).

The Raynes Rail (see Letters to the Editor on opposite page) comes in a variety of shapes and finishes.



Unisex Toilets Under Review

While code requirements for accessible toilets have been in place for years, no such rulings exist for unisex toilets to accommodate use by a person with a disability of one gender requiring assistance by someone of the other gender.

At the urging of the US Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board), the country's model-building code organizations have taken on the challenge of developing the necessary requirements for such a facility.

In a proactive outreach to the private sector, the Access Board has asked the Board for the Coordination of Model Codes (BCMC), an umbrella group for the three building code organizations, to incorporate unisex toilet rooms into their codes. BCMC works to achieve uniformity in each of the model-building codes.

"We're encouraging the private sector to take on the issue themselves," says David Capozzi of the Access Board.

The process began with the introduction of a proposal, drafted by the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Building Owners and Managers Association at the October meeting of BCMC, describing possible unisex toilet-room requirements. At that meeting, the Access Board proposed thresholds for certain types of facilities. BCMC took up the measure and established an ad hoc committee to study the proposal. It will revisit the issue at its March 1995 meeting when the committee presents its recommendations.

A document that will be used in the public-hearing process will be drafted for hearings during the summer of 1995. Once that process is completed, BCMC is expected to put the proposed requirements to a vote.

At the heart of the discussion is the proposal's scope, says Mike Pfeiffer, manager of technical services for the Building Officials and Code Administrators group.

BCMC will have to decide what types of facilities are going to be required to have unisex toilets and develop criteria. The draft proposal, according to Pfeiffer, calls for unisex toilets in assembly and large mercantile facilities. This would include theaters, night clubs, restaurants and large department stores. Office buildings are currently not included in the scope.

Pfeiffer says it's too early in the process to assess the level of opposition or support. The March meeting will provide a good opportunity to identify opponents and supporters of the proposal.



Unisex toilet rooms fill an important need.

BCMC was quick to respond to the board's request, according to Marsha Mazz of the Access Board. She was impressed that they set aside other agenda items to handle the issue.

"We flagged it for them and they responded. They didn't know it was a problem," says Mazz. "We asked them to fast-track the issue and I've never seen an organization respond so quickly."

There are many reasons why the Access Board would like to see BCMC handle the development of the requirements, says Mazz. Chief among them is that it would like to see the requirement integrated into the specifications, just like other toilet requirements.

"The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) doesn't require unisex toilets in buildings, it just says to make them accessible. Model codes force architects to specify them for buildings," says Mazz. "An architect should calculate the number of unisex toilets a facility will have, similar to the number of men's and women's toilets required."

The demand for unisex toilets is not expected to be limited to people with disabilities, according to Mazz. She anticipates their use by families who want to protect vulnerable members. For example, when a father is shopping with his young daughter, he may not feel comfortable sending his daughter into the women's restroom unescorted. A unisex toilet would allow him to accompany his daughter. Mazz also sees such a facility being used by people who may not consider themselves as having disabilities. She uses the example of an older couple that would benefit from a unisex toilet if one of the spouses needed assistance.

Mazz is hopeful that the code organizations can come to some agreement. "It's a perfect example of each entity doing what it does best." However, if this attempt at collaboration doesn't work and no code can be agreed upon, the Access Board is prepared to step in and begin rule making in this area. "We're waiting to see what happens," says Mazz. □

'The draft proposal, calls for unisex toilets in assembly and large mercantile facilities.'

Mike Pfeiffer, Building Officials and Code Administrators

CAPTIONING IN MOVIE THEATERS

— Testing Solutions

Soon deaf or hearing-impaired individuals may be able to view newly released motion pictures in movie theaters. The National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM), a non-profit subsidiary of WGBH in Boston, has developed the Motion Picture Access Project which is attempting to find adequate solutions to "hidden" captioning.

In all, NCAM tested four captioning techniques, three in a theater in the Boston area and one at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC.

Although "the field test wasn't conclusive," according to Ms. Judith Navoy, Executive Director of NCAM, at least two of the techniques tested favorably -- vacuum fluorescent display (VFD) and rear-view or reflected display. VFD is a small computer screen with green characters on a black background mounted on the seat back in front of the user. Reflected display uses an LED display in the back of the theater which shows the reversed text. A small plexiglass panel mounted on an adjustable arm on the theater seats reflects the text.

One of the findings was that each of the two favorable techniques worked best when participants sat in the middle of the theater. The disadvantage to the VFD was that people seated toward the front of the theater found it difficult to look up to see the movie and back down to see the captions.

There were two main drawbacks to the rear-view display.

People in the front of the theater found the text of the captions to be too small, and the captions appeared lopsided to those seated on the sides of the theater. Secondly, the plexiglass, which mounts on a gooseneck arm and is used to view the captions, needed frequent adjustment. NCAM is looking at ways of improving the mounting system.

Another technique, eliminated from consideration, was Virtual Vision. It required participants to wear a large visor with goggles and a built-in mini-TV

receiver. Moviegoers received broadcast captions which they viewed with their dominant eye as they watched the film with the other eye. Participants found the visors too heavy and uncomfortable.

A fourth device, a form of closed captioning, was tested at the Smithsonian in April of this year. It projects a polarized image of the text from a LED display on an overhead projector directly onto the movie screen below the standard image. The captions are only visible to deaf or hearing-impaired participants who wear polarized glasses. The general public saw only a brighter rectangular area.

There were problems here as well. The general audience found the text display area to be too bright and distracting. Moreover, the deaf and hearing-impaired participants objected to the overall darkening effect of the polarized glasses.

Other issues looked at by NCAM were cost and implementation. The seat-back displays would cost \$900 each. It is yet to be determined how many displays each theater would have, and, ideally, these displays would be portable, eliminating the need for hard-wiring. While the plexiglass component used in the rear-view display would only cost "a couple of dollars each," the actual text display would cost \$10,000.

In the next phase of the Project, NCAM will focus on improving the devices based on participant feedback and on how to encode and synchronize the captions to the films themselves. Without this component, installing any of the captioning devices serves no purpose.

Another field test will be conducted in Boston next year. Following that, NCAM hopes to have one of the systems installed in theaters in major cities such as New York, Los Angeles, and Washington, DC. The project will conclude in three years. ■

Arena Stage and Metropolitan Opera Test Captioning of Live Performances

Under a grant from the Philip Morris foundation, the Arena Stage in Washington, DC is investigating the usefulness of vacuum fluorescent displays (VFD) for captioning of live performances presented in their traditional and round theaters. Arena Stage is using the software developed by the National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM), but is using an alternative mounting of a small number of the VFDs as a test project. They are installing the VFDs on adjustable arms mounted on the armrests of the viewer's seat due to the extreme 'rake' of live performance theater seating. (The seat back of the seat in front of each viewer is almost two feet below the sight line of the viewer.) Martha Ingel, disability coordinator of the Arena Stage, ruled out the reflected screen technology since the reversed text would be visible (and distracting) to patrons on the opposite sides of the round theater arena.

Arena Stage's special seating test with VFDs is being taken a step further at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. Operas have traditionally had a problem with audiences who do not understand foreign language librettos. Some theaters have projected the text on the proscenium, but the Met has decided to install a VFD on every seat. This is likely to become a universal solution that benefits all patrons.

Wanted

Universal designer on a part time or consulting basis to act as project manager and /or technical specialist on ADA compliance and Universal Design projects. Travel may be required. ADA survey and report writing experience necessary. Creative designers with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Fax resume of background and experience to
Universal Designers & Consultants, Inc.
301.770.4338

ASAP Discusses Accessible Telecommunications

Developing an accessible telecommunications action plan for future generations is today's challenge, said Larry Scadden of the National Science Foundation (NSF) at a forum hosted by the Association for Safe and Accessible Products (ASAP) in June of 1994.

Scadden provided an overview of the issues and sparked discussion by asking some tough questions. Among his queries: How can we make graphic information available to people with visual impairments? What multimedia information must have both caption and audio presentation? Who will bear the burden of paying for these systems? Will universally accessible telecommunications reduce the ultimate cost of its use?

Among the specific issues addressed was the need for technical graphic information for a person with visual impairments. Participant John DeWitt discussed the need for developing a system that performs a narrative function for graphics similar to captioning on television.

Scadden also discussed the attempts at "sonification" — the process of developing sound graphics to represent simple graphics. He said problems arise as the figures increase in complexity. Another challenge, identified by Scott Marshall, associate executive director, government relations for the American Foundation for the Blind, was the idea that people with visual impairments are generally not familiar with or have had little experience with graphic presentations. He noted that due to lack of training, some tactile graphics may not be understood by many people over the age of 25.

Participant John Steeger of the IBM Corporation reported that his company's OS2 system is a graphic user interface that can be speech synthesized. The OS2 has overcome the problem of duplicating what is on screen to an off-screen model. He noted that there are few OS2 users and that the more commonly used Windows environment is not accessible.

Also discussed at the forum was proposed legislation to deal with some of the gaps in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Title III of the law describes places of public accommodation as "places" or locations, according to Karen Peltz Strauss, supervising attorney for the National Center for Law and Deafness. Pending legislation would extend building requirements to telephone and telecommunications networks on the nation's information highway, said Strauss. □

ASAP is a trade association established to promote the development of products that are easy and safe to use. To receive proceedings from this forum or for more information on ASAP, call 202.347.8200.

Building Product Catalogs

The 1995 Accessible Building Product Guide is a comprehensive collection of approximately 650 products for accessibility and ADA compliance from over 400 manufacturers. The book has been designed to be especially useful in creating accessible commercial, residential and recreational facilities. It is an invaluable resource for designers, builders and operators of buildings that must comply with the ADA. This 340-page exhaustive guide was written by accessibility experts John P.S. Salmen, AIA, and Julee Quarve-Peterson. It is a definitive publication that features a wide range of useful product information in such areas as signage, lighting, transportation, plumbing fixtures, elevators, recreational equipment, storage systems, windows, kitchen appliances, furnishings, drinking fountains, and auxiliary aids. The book is available for \$59.95. To order the guide, call 800.USWILEY (Publication number: 0471-10947-9).

VanDuerr Discovery Industries has published its *ADA Compliance Products Catalog* that features a variety of products and descriptions of how they relate to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). Product descriptions provide detailed technical specifications and, in some cases, installation directions. Products found in this 15-page publication include parking markers, detectable warning mats, installed and portable ramps, an elevator emergency-speaker phone, publications, heavy-duty grab bars, door closers, signage, and an ergonomic workstation. It also includes an ADA partial compliance checklist. For more information, contact Van Duerr Discovery Industries at 426 Broadway, Suite 206, Chico, CA 95928; or call 800.497.2003; Fax 916.893.1560.

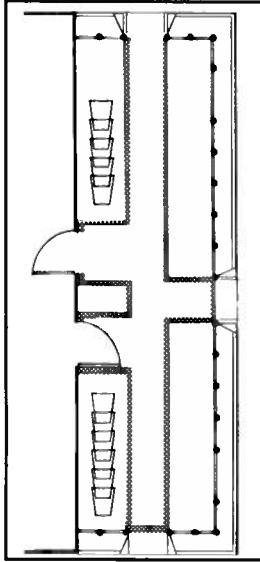
The 1995 Directory of Accessible Building Products, published by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Research Center, is designed for use by home builders, remodelers, architects, manufacturers, and others involved in the home building and remodeling industries. Homeowners, persons with disabilities and their families will find it a useful resource when looking for products to make their homes more accessible. The directory features appliances, bathroom fixtures, support systems, locksets, windows, climate control devices, and security and alarm systems, and includes a publications list. For more information, contact the NAHB Research Center at 400 Prince George's Blvd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-8731; or call 800.638.8556. □

DESIGN TIPS

?

PROBLEM: How do you keep the accessible path of travel clear of abandoned shopping carts in the parcel pick-up area in front of grocery stores?

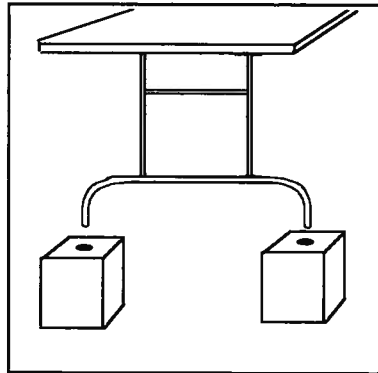
TIP: John Lopez and Dan Flori of Safeway, Inc.'s eastern division came up with a simple, but effective, idea. Paint an attractive, though distinctive, three-foot-wide set of lines defining the accessible path on the concrete sidewalks. This reminds staff to keep the area clear and assists shoppers in following a safe path into the store.



*Universal Design
Newsletter provides
a one year free
subscription for any
Design Tip which
we publish.
Send us your tips.*

?

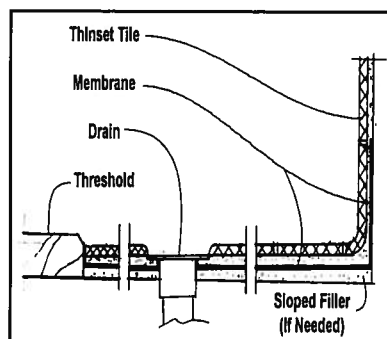
PROBLEM: How do hotels and conference centers increase the table height to accommodate wheelchairs in classroom-style seating arrangements in meeting, workshop and training facilities?



TIP: Attach six-inch-long, four-by-four pieces of wood to the feet of table legs to increase the height while assuring a stable base for a meeting surface.

?

PROBLEM: How do you create a roll-in shower facility in a space that doesn't accommodate a pre-fabricated unit or when a custom-designed look is desired?



TIP: Slope the floor towards the shower drain and install thinsit floor tile over a liquid-applied waterproof membrane. This creates a 'wet area' bathroom so that the entire waterproofed floor of the bathroom acts as a shower pan. ■

UDEP Update

The Universal Design Education Project (UDEP) continues to gain momentum. UDEP is an effort to integrate universal design into college curricula. It is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and other foundations and was launched by the Adaptive Environments Center (AEC), a Boston-based design education organization. In Boston last November, more than 375 people participated in *Designing the Future: Toward Universal Design*, a successful two-day symposium sponsored by UDEP. Tapes of the sessions are available by contacting AEC at 617.695.1225. On the two days following the symposium the faculty and advisors involved in the 1993-94 UDEP program met and reported on their efforts and discussed strategies for teaching design in the future.

Lifetime Achievement Award

At the meeting, Professor Emeritus Gunnar Dybwad of the Heller School at Brandeis University was awarded the Adaptive Environment Center's Lifetime Achievement Award. Dybwad was recognized for his efforts in universal design, including his organization of an international meeting of architects in 1966. At that time he challenged architects to consider the needs of people with disabilities in the design of facilities.

New book

In another exciting endeavor, UDEP is producing *Teaching Strategies for Universal Design*, a compilation of case studies and reflections on the process of schools participating in the UDEP pilot program. The book, edited by Polly Welch, will be available from Adaptive Environments this spring.

Funding available

UDEP will again be awarding grants for participation in its curriculum development program. Schools interested in applying for next year's grants should contact Charlene White at AEC at 617.695.1225 (V/TTY) to obtain an application package. Distribution of the applications is expected to begin in late spring.

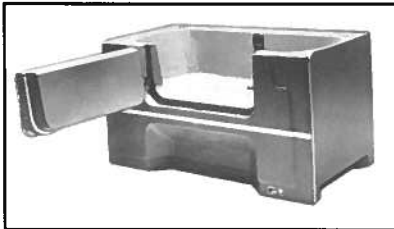
New Internet address

There is a new address for universal design information network gopher on the Internet. It is: gopher.aces.k12.ct.us. This address will provide users with immediate access to the growing body of information on universal design. ■

PRODUCTS

Safe-T-Bath

This fiberglass bathtub, designed with a car-style door and elevated floor, provides comfortable and safe bathing for wheelchair users. By raising the bathing floor about 18 inches, this unit eliminates the need for the bather to stand up and chance falling, as well as lifting or stooping on the part of a caregiver. The watertight door is 30-inches wide and opens a full 180 degrees. The base of the tub is recessed to allow room for wheelchair footrests.



Freedom 2

This portable toilet by Satellite Industries, Inc. designed to accommodate wheelchair users combines convenience and accessibility compliance. The Freedom 2 is a lightweight, ground-level, trailerless portable toilet that facilitates handling and multiple-unit deployment. The international symbol for wheelchair accessibility on the outside of the unit immediately identifies it to users at concerts, fairs, and other special events.



Safe-T-Bath
185 Millbury Avenue
Millbury, MA 01527
508.965.2361

The Kiwi Connection
82 Shelburne Center Road
Shelburne, MA 01370
413.625.9506

Parisi Enterprises, Inc.
23 Southward Avenue
Congers, NY 10920
914.268.5983

Satellite Industries, Inc.
2530 Xenium Lane
Minneapolis, MN 55441
800.328.3332

EZYFOLD

EZYFOLD is a unique hinge system for bi-fold doors for closets, cabinets and furniture manufactured by The Kiwi Connection. The EZYFOLD is designed to increase the door-opening width and maneuvering space for wheelchair users. Operating space in narrow hallways is increased because the doors fold flat against the wall or adjacent cabinets when open, unlike protruding conventional bi-fold doors on tracks. It also provides extra-wide openings for storage space or rooms in residential, commercial, and institutional settings.



The DoorMan

The DoorMan by Parisi Enterprises, Inc. is an all-electric, wireless sliding door opener operated by a set of wireless "bump" switches mounted on a door, wall, or wheelchair. These touch switches allow virtually any part of the body to be used to operate the door. Other options include a motion-sensing switch that provides hands-free use, and an auxiliary jack for interfacing with environmental control systems. The system runs on standard household current; no special wiring is needed.

The New Products column was provided by the ABLEDATA project, a computerized database of information on assistive equipment which is funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and is administered by Macro International, Inc., Silver Spring, MD.

■ PLUMBING FIXTURES	■ TRANSPORTATION	■ LIGHTING	■ SIGNAGE	<p>AUXILIARY AIDS ■ DRINKING FOUNTAINS ■ FURNISHINGS</p> <p>The Definitive Product Guide for Accessible Facilities</p> <p>This extensive resource presents approximately 650 products from 400 manufacturers for use in creating accessible commercial, residential and recreational facilities. This is the ultimate guide for designers, builders and operators of buildings that must comply with the ADA.</p> <p>The 1995 Accessible Building Product Guide by John P. S. Salmen, AIA & Julee Quarve-Peterson 0471-10947-9 340 pp. \$59.95</p> <p>To Order Call 1-800-USWILEY</p> <p>Annual updates sent on approval.</p>	■ KITCHEN APPLIANCES	■ WINDOWS	■ STORAGE SYSTEMS
■ ELEVATORS	■ RECREATION EQUIPMENT						

The Complete ADA Multimedia Reference Tool

This Quick
Reference Tool
Has It All!

- * The Public Law
 - * The Regulations
 - * The TA Manuals
 - * The ADAAG
- (Including Schematics)

It's All Here!

This user friendly
multimedia program
is available for
Macintosh and Windows

This program
will save you
time with
fast search
options!

**Call Now
to Reserve Your
Copy at \$295**

Save \$200 until
March 1, 1995

Regular Price \$495

1-800-469-2133

M-F 9AM-5PM CST

*"We are committed
to continuing our
efforts to teach
individuals about
their rights and
businesses about
their obligations
under the ADA,"*
Deval L. Patrick
Assistant Attorney
General for Civil
Rights

FedWatch from page 3

DOJ Awards 10 Grants for 1995

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has awarded \$1.6 million in technical assistance grants to fund projects to increase the awareness of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). "We are committed to continuing our efforts to teach individuals about their rights and businesses about their obligations under the ADA," said Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Deval L. Patrick.

This year's 10 grants went to:

Access Video Fund to produce a documentary to educate the public on the ADA, dispel myths and stereotypes about people with disabilities, and illustrate the positive impact of the ADA on the lives of people with disabilities.

Adaptive Environments to support an ongoing project to incorporate universal design concepts into the curricula of architecture, interior design, industrial design and landscape architecture schools and programs. (See article page 8.)

Chief Officers of State Library Agencies to continue to create a single-source collection of ADA materials to be publicized and placed in libraries throughout the country.

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund to continue to operate a toll-free ADA information line to assist persons with disabilities with inquiries about ADA requirements.

Home Builders Institute to distribute ADA educational materials to local building contractors, construction tradespeople and individuals in construction training programs.

Key Bridge Foundation to train professional mediators on the ADA and develop a procedure for referring ADA complaints to the mediators.

Police Executive Research Forum to expand materials used to train police officers throughout the country about persons who are deaf, persons with epilepsy and persons with mental illness.

The Arc to continue to reach out to the nation's small businesses, to conduct ADA training sessions, and to operate a toll-free technical assistance line. The Arc will also produce educational materials for police departments and courts on the rights of persons with mental retardation in the law enforcement and judicial systems.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation to develop an ADA self-study course to teach local historic preservation commissions and boards how to analyze accessibility issues.



Truncated Domes from page 1

major findings was that skillfull blind travelers seek one or two confirming cues. The most important cues are a curb edge, a slope indicating a curb ramp, traffic sounds, or the end of a building.

Overall, the research seems to have raised more questions than it answered: Where is additional information needed at particular intersections, hazardous vehicular areas and reflecting pools? What kind of information is needed? What is the most appropriate technology to provide that information? Who will benefit the most from the technology?

The study, due to limited resources, did not address the need for detectable warnings at hazardous vehicular areas or consider the case of reflecting pools.

To take the research to the next level, the staff has recommended that a task force develop a comprehensive statement of work and methodology for new research. Funding for this research project would be sought from federal agencies, organizations and manufacturers.

The research results puts the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) requirement for detectable warnings at all curb ramps on shaky ground.

According to the report, "The board's goal in requiring detectable warnings was to provide a cue in the absence of a curb to facilitate the use of mobility skills by persons with visual impairments. While the research indicates that there may be a need for addi-

Index to Universal Design Newsletter

Now Available

*Quickly reference topics and names
printed in the
1993 and 1994 issues of
Universal Design Newsletter*

Stand-alone version - \$25.00
Bound with all 8 issues -
\$150.00

Contact
Universal Design Newsletter
301.770-7890 V/TTY or 301.770.4338 Fax



"There isn't a clear indication that detectable warnings are needed,"

Lawrence Roffee,
Access Board

tional cues at some intersections, it does not wholly support continuing the ADAAG requirement for detectable warnings at all curb ramps."

"There isn't a clear indication that detectable warnings are needed," says Lawrence Roffee, executive Director of the Access Board.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN NEWSLETTER

Accessibility and the Americans with Disabilities Act

Yes, send me one year (4 issues) of UDN for \$75.00

Payment enclosed

Renewal

I prefer two years (8 issues) for \$135.00 (a savings of \$15.00)

Please charge my credit card

MC VISA

Card No.

Card Expires

Name (please print)

Title

Address

City State Zip

Telephone Fax

Signature

Company

Please send me information about other publications and services available.

Universal Design Newsletter
1700 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852 -Phone 301.770.7890 Fax 301.770.4338



Printed on recycled
paper with
vegetable inks.

January 9-13: Planning for Accessibility Coordinators will be held in Clearwater Beach, FL. The National Center on Accessibility (NCA), The National Park Service, and Indiana University are conducting a course covering all aspects of physical accessibility for park, recreation or leisure environments. The course is aimed at staff persons who have responsibility for overall compliance with accessibility mandates. Contact NCA at 800.424.1877 or 317.349.9240.


February 12 & 13 (Phoenix, AZ); and March 27 & 28 (Boston, MA) will be the sites of a series of seminars on **Functional/Environmental Assessments and Home Modifications** sponsored by Abilities OT Services, Inc. Call 410.358.7269 for more information.

April 5-8: Transporting People with Disabilities is the national conference and exhibition on safety, access and liability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Sponsored by "TD Safety Report" this conference in Orlando, FL. will bring together transportation professionals to discuss compliance issues concerning the ADA. Call 202.737.4650 for information.

April 19-21: Second Symposium on Elevators, Fire and Accessibility will be held in Baltimore, MD, sponsored by many federal and national organizations and associations. Contact Marcy Weinstock at 212.705.8526 for more information.

May 22-24: ErgoCon '95 - Silicon Valley Ergonomics Conference & Exposition is sponsored by the Silicon Valley Ergonomics Institute. The conference will include presentations that highlight applications of human factors/ergonomics principles and methods to a broad array of concerns, including accommodation, safety, comfort and productivity. San Jose, CA. For information contact the ErgoCon '95 coordinator at 714.752.7866.

May 30 - June 3: Acoustical Accessibility for the Hearing and Visually Disabled is a special session planned for the spring meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in Washington, DC. The session is intended to show potential solutions to problems relating to acoustical communication in public spaces such as restaurants, offices, schools, theaters, etc. This session aims to provide a forum for acousticians, audiologists, designers and people with disabilities to exchange ideas and share relevant experiences. To submit an abstract or for more information contact David Lubman at 714.898.9099.

July 19-22: "The Responsive Campus" is the theme of the Association on Higher Education and Disability's 18th International Conference in San Jose, California. This year's conference will reflect on the distributed responsibility among various campus staff to provide for ADA compliance, new curricula and appropriate accommodations for people with disabilities. To submit a program proposal, contact program chair Ward Newmeyer at 510.643.5116 (V/TTY). 



Events to be placed in the UDN Calendar must be submitted to the Editor one month before the publication date.

Universal Design
Newsletter
1700 Rockville Pike
Suite 110
Rockville, MD
20852

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE PAID
ROCKVILLE, MD
PERMIT #4297

Address Correction
Requested