SARTAC
Advisory Committee

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT

ADA

JULY 22, 2021

What is SARTAC?

- Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center
- Online clearinghouse for information
- A partnership between regional technical assistance centers
- Funded by Administration for Community Living

Presenters

Bernard Baker

Cheri Mitchell

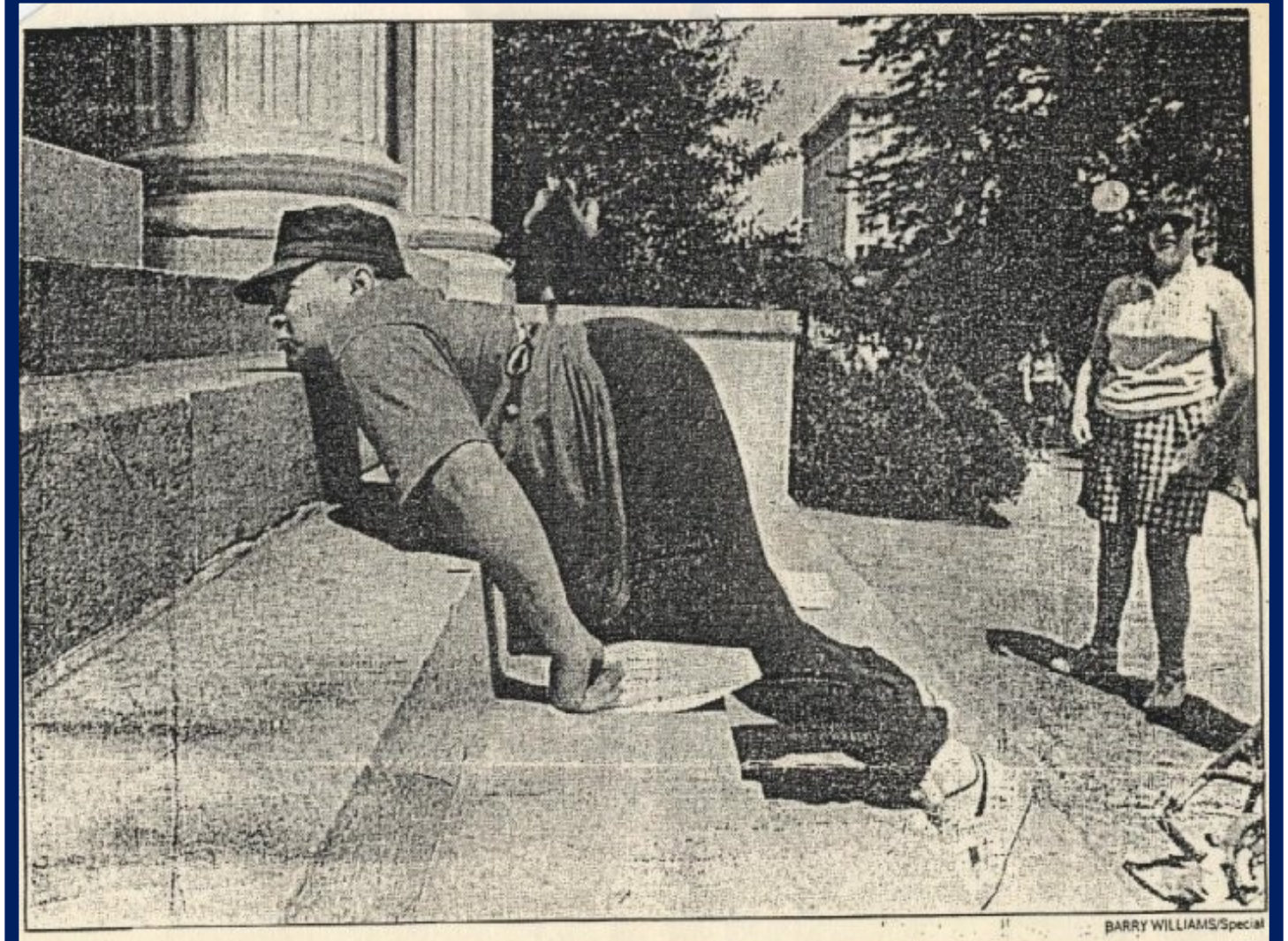
David Frye

Call to action

- Remember non-violent protest
- Never violent protest

DISABILITY RIGHTS ARE CIVIL RIGHTS

Happy ADA 31 Year Anniversary



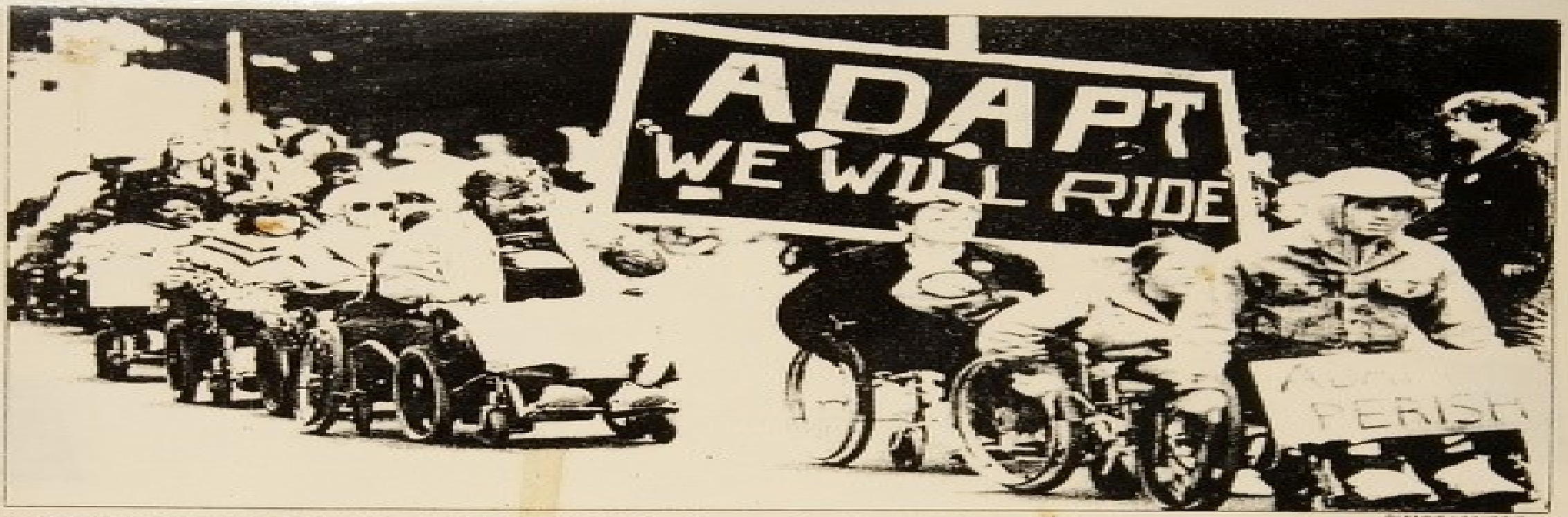
BARRY WILLIAMS/Special

UGA freshman David Bliss, who usually travels by wheelchair, makes a graphic point Monday by struggling up the granite steps of the building that contains the school's handicapped services office. The building has no elevator.

History

It started with wanting to get on the bus.

Bernard Baker who is President of SABE and a Disability Civil Rights Pioneer was one of the ones in Atlanta who Chained himself to a bus.



Disabled demonstrators roll down Peachtree Street Sunday en route to the Atlanta Hilton Hotel on Courtland Street, site of an American Public Transit Association convention. The disabled group wants removal of all barriers to public transportation.

Disabled Demand Accessible Public Transportation

Protest Directed at Mass Transit Conference Here

By Sandra McIntosh
Staff Writer

About 100 disabled people from across the United States and Canada, most of them in wheelchairs, protested in front of the Hilton Hotel in Atlanta Sunday at the start of a convention of mass transit authorities.

Stephanie Thomas, a spokeswoman for the group calling themselves ADAPT (American Disabled for Accessible Public Transportation), said the protesters are angry over the transit group's continued opposition to federal legislation that would prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities.

The protest was timed to coincide with the opening of the convention of the American Public Transit Association (APTA), a trade group representing a majority of public transit systems in North America.

The bill, known as the Americans With Disabilities Act, would make it illegal to discriminate against disabled people in employment and places of public accommodations, would assure those with speech or hearing impairments of special equipment allowing them to communicate with anyone, and would remove barriers in transportation.

It is the latter part that upsets the members of the APTA.

"We assume it will become law, and if it does we'll implement it," said Albert Engelken, APTA's deputy executive director. "But that doesn't mean we have to be happy about it."

Mr. Engelken said he does not want to sound cold-hearted but with shrinking federal transportation funds it sometimes does not make sense to use those funds to install seldom-used wheelchair lifts on buses.

"We're not harsh people, but our job is to offer the most people the most mobility for the best possible price," Mr. Engelken said.

Ms. Thomas said her group does not expect the transit systems to refit all their buses immediately, nor make all the train stations immediately available to the disabled.

"We realize it's a longtime goal, and we're willing to wait. We know the costs involved," Ms. Thomas said as other members crowded around. "All we're asking for is a commitment that they're willing to do these things, and they won't give us that."

The protest, which closed part of Courtland Street, lasted about four hours, and was watched by nearly as many police officers as there were protesters. Police Maj. W.W. Holley said no arrests were made.

ADAPT members had a permit to hold Sunday's protest, but Major Holley said no other permits have been issued. The group said it plans to stay until Thursday when the convention ends, and may protest again.

ON IT
OR IN
FRONT OF IT
WE WILL
RIDE!

Getting Involved is Important

Self Advocates Make the Difference

The ADA

The Americans with Disabilities Act also known as The ADA

- It bans disability discrimination
- The **ADA** is **divided into** four main sections, which are called **Titles**

The Four Titles

The four parts known as Titles are

- **Title I** covers employment
- **Title II** covers public entities and public transportation like public housing and buses
- **Title III** covers public accommodations and commercial buildings
- **Title IV** covers telecommunications internet and cellphones

Since Passed to Now

- The ADA has had several times that we, self advocates have defeated attempts to gut the law
- There has been some successful attempts
- But we, as self advocates have to advocate to stop future attempts

The ADA is not perfect

Disability Issues Resource Videos

Recommended Video

Crip Camp – Disability Civil Rights history

Intelligent Lives – how people were treated and 3 successful stories

Bottom Dollar – story of sheltered workshop and sub-minimum wage and 3 people with disabilities who have a job and make real money

A Call to Action

We as People with disabilities must get involved and speak out and tell our legislators say no to changes that take away our rights.

Large Group questions

- Have you ever participated in a peaceful protest?
- Anyone participated in getting the ADA passed?
- Has anyone participated in getting other laws passed?

Resources

Special thanks to Mark Johnson

And Georgia history project

http://sclfind.libs.uga.edu/sclfind/view?docId=ead/RBRLGDHA.xml

Resources

Resources for self advocacy groups can be found at www.selfadvocoacyinfo.org