

1990
MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA
WESTIN HOTEL
CINCINNATI, OHIO
AUGUST 22-26, 1990

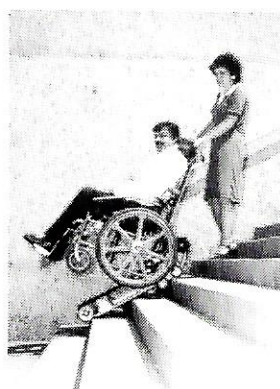
Sponsored by the Ms. Wheelchair Ohio Committee,
the Rehabilitation Center of Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio,
the Invacare Corporation, and the Lions Clubs of Kentucky.

Health Aid Services

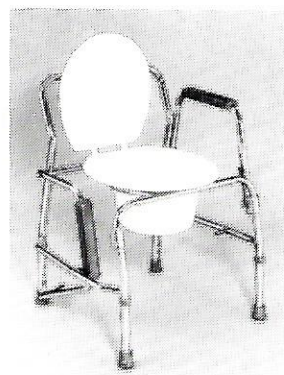
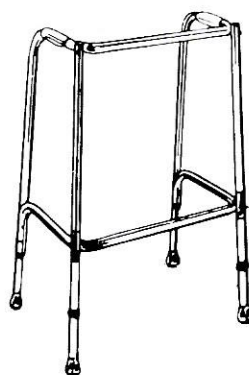
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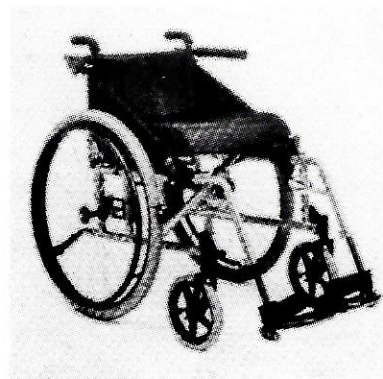
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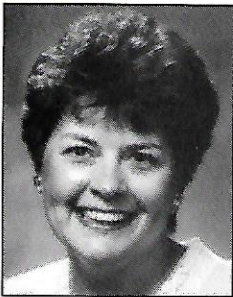
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GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA



Sherry L. Repscher

Welcome to the 20th Annual Ms. Wheelchair America Program! We are proud to return to the great state of Ohio, the place of our beginnings some two decades ago, for this exciting event.

We appreciate the dedication, commitment and leadership of Laurie Caufield and Dee Butler in cooperation with the Rehabilitation Center of Good Samaritan Hospital, Invacare Corporation, and the Lion's clubs of Kentucky, for hosting our "Celebration of Achievement and Awareness".

Thanks go to all of the individuals, businesses and organizations for their generous donations and contributions towards the success of this program.

As we come together for this year's competition, we have much to be celebrated. The Americans With Disabilities Act has passed through Congress and should be signed by President Bush by the time we meet. This important legislation will offer a comprehensive civil rights act for people with disabilities. With this law comes opportunity and responsibility. There still remains much work for the Ms. Wheelchair America program to do. We need to continue our efforts to educate the general public about accommodations, identify and work to remove barriers to full participation in our communities and realize the human potential through increased employment opportunities.

It is our hope that each person involved with the 1990 Ms. Wheelchair America Program, whether as a spectator, contestant, judge, or patron will have a rewarding and memorable experience here in Cincinnati! Yours for a barrier-free America.

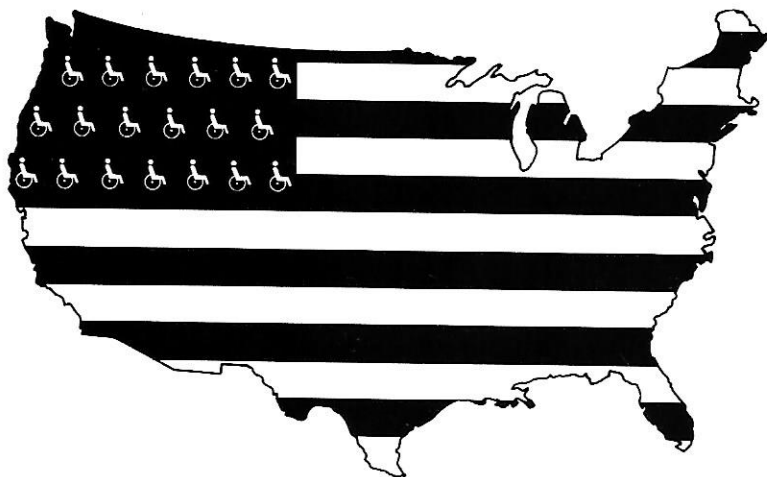
Sherry L. Repscher,
President
Ms. Wheelchair America

MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA PROGRAM HISTORY

In 1974, a Columbus, Ohio physiatrist, Dr. Philip K. Wood, who had devoted his career to the treatment and rehabilitation of the functionally impaired individual was well aware of the capabilities, determination, talent and courage of the handicapped. This physician established Ms. Wheelchair America as a forum for the promotion of the achievements as well as the needs of mobility impaired persons. The non-profit program is coordinated by volunteers throughout the nation who are dedicated to increasing public awareness so that the physically challenged citizens of our country will be able to lead productive and meaningful lives.

Similar to the Miss America Pageant, the Ms. Wheelchair America Program is in no way a beauty contest. It is, instead, a competition to select the most accomplished and articulate spokesperson for more than 45 million physically challenged Americans. The selected representative must be able to communicate both the needs and the accomplishments of her constituency to the general public, the business community and the legislature. She is charged with a continuing effort to educate the public regarding the dignity, productiveness and basic value of physically challenged people. She assumes responsibility for the ongoing effort to eliminate the architectural and attitudinal barriers that prevent people who are physically challenged from assuming their rightful place in society.

As Ms. Wheelchair America, her duties are numerous. Each year she has the opportunity to travel, visiting advocacy groups, making public appearances and conducting television, radio and print interviews in the fulfillment of her major responsibilities. These include promoting awareness of the needs of the physically challenged, creating an awareness and informing the able-bodied public of these achievements across the nation, and promoting Ms. Wheelchair America, by assisting in the establishment of pageant committees in all states.



PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA PROGRAM

The Ms. Wheelchair America Program is in no way a beauty contest. It is, instead, a competition to select the most accomplished and articulate spokesperson for other persons with disabilities in the United States. The selected representative must be able to communicate both the needs and the accomplishments of her constituency to the general public, the business community and the lawmakers. She is charged with a continuing effort to educate the public regarding the dignity, productiveness and basic value of disabled people. She assumes the responsibility for the ongoing effort to eliminate the architectural and attitudinal barriers that prevent people with disabilities from assuming their rightful place in society.

As Ms. Wheelchair America, her duties are numerous. Each year she has the opportunity to travel, visiting advocacy groups, making public appearances and conducting television, radio and print interviews in the fulfillment of her major responsibilities. These include promoting awareness of the needs of disabled persons, creating an awareness for the need to eliminate architectural and attitudinal barriers, informing the able-bodied public of the achievements of physically disabled people across the nation.

We plan and conduct a three day event to select our new Ms. Wheelchair America. The Program is more than just the judging sessions when each contestant meets one-on-one with the judging panel and one 'winner' is named. We schedule workshop sessions where we offer interesting topics of personal enhancement for the women, whether about grooming, communication and interpersonal skill development, networking with community programs and other educational topics. We offer 'free time' to allow for information exchanges between contestants to take place. Many new friendships are started from the Program, as the women validate the fact they are not the only one to use a wheelchair and experience some of the things they share with each other. The Program offers an opportunity to enjoy three days at a luxurious hotel setting where the contestants are really treated as 'special guests'. The Program is much more than just a healthy competition... it's an opportunity to see the potential within and to challenge personal growth.

The Planning Board for Ms. Wheelchair America is made up of volunteers from many different community organizations, businesses, private citizens, and previous title holders. There are few administrative costs to the Program. All expenses for hosting the Program, travel for Ms. Wheelchair America and expenses associated with the national Ms. Wheelchair America Program must be secured through various fund-raising efforts, donations, etc. We welcome your assistance.

FAREWELL REMARKS

MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA 1989-90

KATHY GARCIA



Kathy Garcia

As I reflect on the events of my year as Ms. Wheelchair America, I get truly emotional. What a year!

My eyes were opened to see how much still remains to be done to ensure the rights of disabled Americans in our Country.

My ears were opened to hear the cries for needed services by disabled persons throughout our nation.

My heart was touched, many times, by the kindness and generosity of young and old across America.

There are so many people to thank for the success of my year: To my employer, Intermountain Health Care, who was so supportive of me in every aspect of my reign. As a result of their generosity, I was able to share my life with many people in many different states, increasing awareness of how much more alike we are than different.

To my State Coordinator, who is truly my hero...the wind beneath my wings.

To my traveling companion, who was always there by my side keeping me humble.

To my fellow employees, who were patient and understanding filling in at a moment's notice.

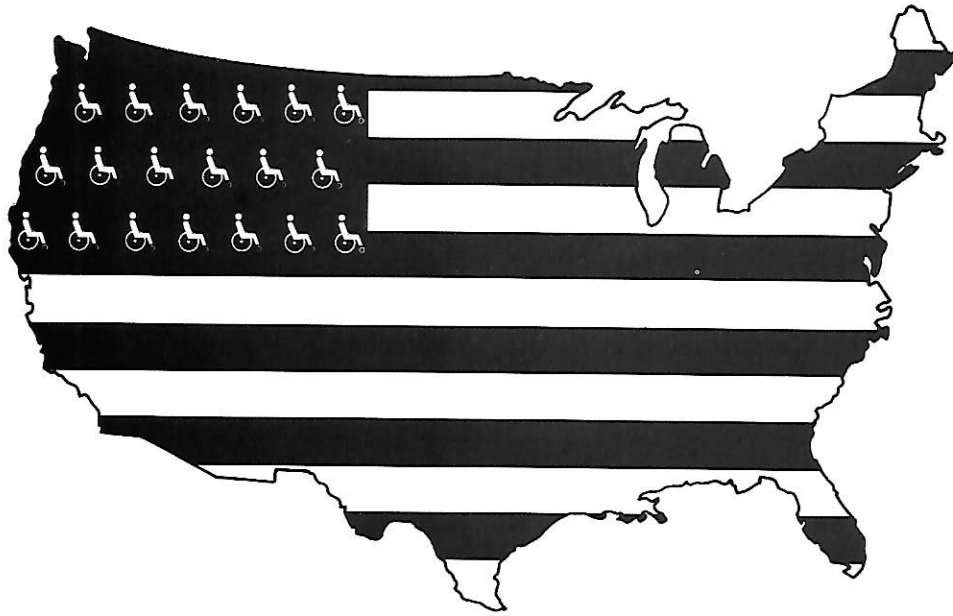
To Utah State University who recognized my achievements and awarded me a scholarship to pursue my Master's Degree in Social Work.

To Bill, who was always there, who put up with my insane behaviors at times, yet continued to love and support me.

To my family, who have yet to see me this year.

Last but not least, to my beautiful daughter, Seneca, who stood in the background while Mommy received all the glory, who cried out for attention many times; and mommy couldn't be there. It never went unnoticed, my little princess; and once again it's your turn to shine.

I'm so thankful for all the opportunities, the friendships, the love, this year has afforded me. I have been truly blessed.



MS. WHEELCHAIR CREED

*As Ms. Wheelchair, I promise to do my utmost
to promote public awareness of the disabled . . .*

*And to give unstintingly of my time and effort
to this purpose. . .*

*To strive to achieve the best that is
within me. . .*

*To offer my hand in friendship to everyone
I meet . . .*

*To be cheerful, honest and loving. . .
To give hope to the less fortunate . . .
To set an example by my attitude . . .*

*And to do all of this with grace, warmth
and dignity.*

THE OHIO MS. WHEELCHAIR COMMITTEE SALUTES FORMER MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA TITLEHOLDERS

¹⁹⁷⁴
Janie Robinson, Texas

¹⁹⁷⁵
Kathy Smith Tiley, Alabama

¹⁹⁷⁶
Dixie Lee Etheridge, Mississippi

¹⁹⁷⁷
Beverly Chapman, Florida

¹⁹⁷⁸
Margie Sloan, Georgia

¹⁹⁷⁹
Marge Chmielewski, Michigan

¹⁹⁸⁰
Nancy Pudvin, Georgia

¹⁹⁸¹
Vivian Thompson, Massachusetts

¹⁹⁸²
Marian Schooling (Vessels), Maryland

¹⁹⁸³
Barbara Crozier, Alabama

¹⁹⁸⁴
Gaynell Colburn, Maryland

¹⁹⁸⁵
Donna Cline, Nevada

¹⁹⁸⁶
Sandra Honbaier, North Carolina

¹⁹⁸⁷
Peggy Simpson, Alabama

¹⁹⁸⁸
Jewell Massey, Georgia

¹⁹⁸⁹
Kathy Garcia, Utah

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA

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Recording Secretary
Lawrenceburg, Indiana



Ms. Wheelchair America, Inc.

Ms. Wheelchair America 1989-90: Kathy K. Garcia

Dear Friends:

As we celebrate the 1990 Ms. Wheelchair America Program in Cincinnati, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our state organizations for everything they have contributed this year. Without the help of dedicated volunteers we would not have achieved the success that we have to date.

I would also like to thank all of our friends who have attended tonight's program. It is through your support and encouragement that we have as many wonderful contestants as we do this evening.

And finally . . . a big THANK YOU to the State of Ohio for making this week a very special one for us. So many of us have traveled from all over the country to meet in Cincinnati and we have received a warm welcome from all concerned.

Let us all keep up our support for our new Ms. Wheelchair America who will be crowned tonight! Let us make this a terrific year!

Sincerely,

Louise G. Peuser
Executive Director
Ms. Wheelchair America, Inc.



MS. WHEELCHAIR OHIO
LYNELL M. ROOT

OFFICIAL HOSTESS FOR
MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA 1990

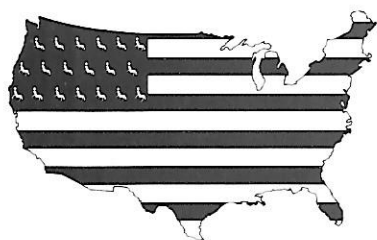
Ms. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA 1990

WESTIN HOTEL, CINCINNATI

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, August 22, 1990

Transportation to and from Greater Cincinnati Airport will be provided



| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Contestant Registration Westin Hotel | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. |
| Contestant/Companion Orientation Hospitality/Headquarters Suite | 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. |
| Picnic Buffet Dinner Contestants meet Escorts Location: Taft I Ballroom | 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. |



Good Samaritan Hospital

3217 Clifton Ave. / Cincinnati, Ohio 45220-2489

Thursday, August 23, 1990

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Breakfast Location: Fountain Room | 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. |
| Breakfast & Judges Orientation Ms. Wheelchair America Headquarters | 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. |
| Judging of Contestants Location: Grant Room | 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. |
| Ms. Wheelchair America Board Meeting Location: Benjamin Harrison Room | 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. |
| Gift Exchange Luncheon & Fashion Show by Avenues Location: Fountain Room | 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. |
| Contestant/Escort Workshop Adaptive Dance - Bud Walters Location: Tyler Davidson I | 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. |
| Ms. Wheelchair America Board Meeting Location: Benjamin Harrison Room | 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. |
| Board Bus for trip to River | 5:45 p.m. |
| Board Becky Thatcher River Boat BB Riverboats Landing — Covington | 6:30 p.m. |
| Return to Hotel | 10:15 p.m. |

Friday, August 24, 1990

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Breakfast Location: Fountain Room | 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. |
| Ms. Wheelchair America Board Meeting Location: Hayes Room | 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. |

INVACARE

Hill-Rom
A HILLENBRAND INDUSTRY

Contestant Workshop by Avenues 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Subject: Focus Group
Location: Tyler Davidson I Room

Luncheon 12 Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Speaker: Ms. Wheelchair America 1989
Location: Fountain Room

Judging 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Location: Grant Room

Board Bus for trip to Kentucky 5:30 p.m.

Arrive Oldenburg Brewery 6:15 p.m.
Tour and Dinner

Return to Hotel 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 25, 1990

Breakfast 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Location: McKinley Room

Ms. Wheelchair America Board Meeting 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Location: Hayes Room

Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 to 12:00 Noon
Location: Presidential Ballroom

Rehearsal Box Lunch 12:00 Noon
Escort to pick up in Hospitality Suite

Judging (If Required) 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Location: Grant Room

Contestant Photo Session/Opportunity 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Location: Fountain Square-Weather Permitting
(If weather unfavorable - Westin Hotel)

Cocktails 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.

Dinner/Pageant 7:00 to 9:45 p.m.
Location: Presidential Ballroom

Queen's Reception 10:00 to 12:00 Midnight
Location: Taft Ballroom
(Dancing)

Sunday, August 26, 1990

Farewell Brunch 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.
Presentation of Awards
Location: Fountain Room

MS. WHEELCHAIR AMER



*Ms. Wheelchair Alabama
Miriam Denise Witherspoon
Fairfield, Alabama*



*Ms. Wheelchair California
Becki McCafferty
Irvine, California*



*Ms. Wheelchair Florida
Mercedes Elena Rodriguez
Miami, Florida*



*Ms. Wheelchair Maryland
Patricia Victoria Sanders
Capitol Heights, Maryland*

ICA 1990 CONTESTANTS



*Ms. Wheelchair Michigan
Mary Lou Baranski
Center Line, Michigan*



*Ms. Wheelchair North Carolina
Merlene T. Hilton
Granite Falls, North Carolina*

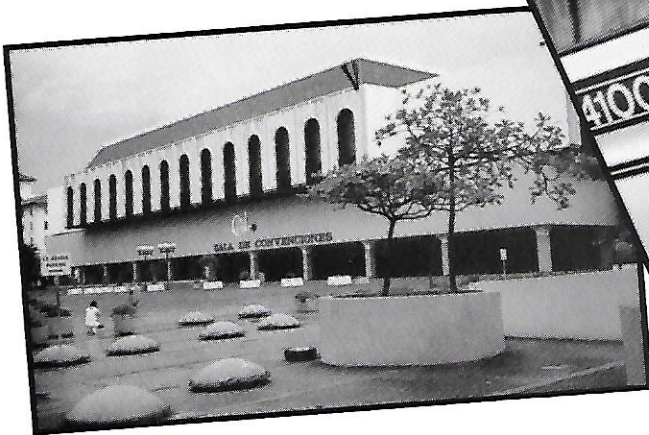


*Ms. Wheelchair South Carolina
Eleanor "Patsy" Hawkins
Hartsville, South Carolina*



*Ms. Wheelchair Utah
Dawn Olson
Ogden, Utah*

Ms. WHEELCHAIR



R AMERICA 1989



MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA CROWNING EVENT SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1990

COCKTAILS, 6:00 TO 6:45 p.m.

DINNER, 7:00 p.m.

Music by harpist Jackie Davis

Boston Bib Lettuce with Bay Shrimp & Citrus Vinaigrette

Roasted Breast of Chicken with Hazelnut Cream Sauce

Dauphinois Potato, Seasonal Vegetables

Rolls & Butter

White Chocolate Mousse in Dark Chocolate Cup

Glass of Wine

Coffee/Tea

INTRODUCTION

Sherry Repscher

President, Board of Directors

Ms. Wheelchair America

INVOCATION

Lynn Root

Ms. Wheelchair Ohio

WELCOME

Elaine D. Banzhaf

Assistant Vice President

Good Samaritan Hospital

Cincinnati, Ohio

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUEST AND JUDGES

Laurie C. Caufield

State Coordinator, Ohio

PROGRAM

Mary jane Bednarczuk, Emcee

SONG: Mary jane Bednarczuk

MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA: "MY YEAR IN REVIEW"

Kathy K. Garcia, Utah

PRESENTATION OF CONTESTANTS

SONG: Mary jane Bednarczuk

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS

SUPPORTER RECOGNITION

CONTESTANT SPEECHES

SONG: Mary jane Bednarczuk

CROWNING OF MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA

PRESENTATION BY INVACARE

QUEEN'S RECEPTION FOLLOWS IMMEDIATELY

Taft Ballroom

SATURDAY EVENING'S EMCEE

MARY JANE BEDNARCZUK



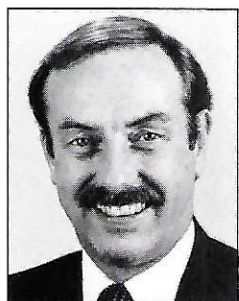
Mary Jane Bednarczuk

Since 1983, Mary Jane has provided the talent for the Ms. Wheelchair Ohio productions. She has made the event professional and distinctive. While married and raising a family in Zanesville, Ohio, Mary Jane has participated in a variety of shows and pageants. In the opinion of the Ohio Committee, she ranks with the most renowned of singers and emcees. Just listen - you'll see.

CONTESTANT WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP #1: ADAPTIVE DANCE

BUD WALTERS (PROFESSIONAL ENTERTAINER)

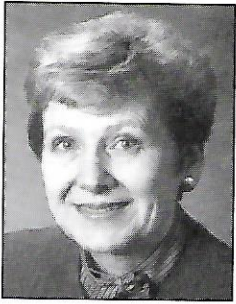


Bud Walters

Mr. Walters is an actor, master dancer, and a singer. He has appeared in numerous television commercials and industrial films. Most recently he appeared in the film *Bluegrass*, starring Cheryl Ladd, which was filmed in Lexington, Kentucky; and *Fresh Horses*, starring Molly Ringwald, which was filmed here in Cincinnati. He has starred and/or appeared in the stage productions of *Camelot*, *Hello Dolly*, *Lion in Winter*, *Match Maker*, and *Diary of Anne Frank*, to name but a few. Mr. Walters currently works with the Good Samaritan Hospital's Rehabilitation Center in developing adaptive programs for the disabled.

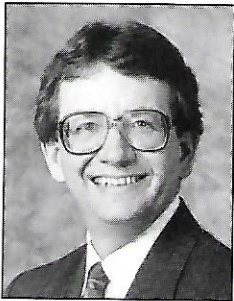
JUDGES

MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA 1990



Joan D. Peisher

Joan D. Peisher is a registered nurse who has been involved with the recovery of accident victims for many years. She works for the Nationwide Insurance Company in Columbus, Ohio. For more than 20 years, Ms. Peisher has worked in hospitals and was a Rehabilitation Counselor for 13 years. She is actively involved with Disability Awareness groups in the city of Columbus, and served six years on the Ohio Governor's Council for Disabled Persons. She is married with four grown children, two grandchildren and has just finished work toward a BA in Psychology from Capital University. Her national reputation is due to her hard work with disability management. With us again as a judge for the Ms. Wheelchair America 1990 program, she is serving as master judge.



Thomas G. Saul, MD

Dr. Saul is a nationally renowned neurosurgeon with a special interest in spinal disorders. Ms. Wheelchair Ohio has been fortunate to have him as a judge on several occasions. He has combined special compassion with humor and sincere interest.

Dr. Saul holds board certification from the American Board of Neurological Surgery and membership in many professional organizations. Good Samaritan Hospital is privileged to have him as director of its Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit. At Good Samaritan, he is also director of the Graduate Education Program in Neurosurgery. Dr. Saul is also Associate Professor of Clinical Neurosurgery at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center.



Deborah Kendrick

Deborah Kendrick is an award-winning writer and poet whose work has appeared in many national and regional publications. Her newspaper column, "Alive and Well," appears regularly in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*; and covers all disability issues. As an advocate, Ms. Kendrick has served on numerous boards and councils working toward equality for people with disabilities, and has addressed groups across the country on such issues as disabled parents, the education of disabled children, and the relationship between the media and disability attitudes. She lives with her husband and three children in Cincinnati, Ohio.



James M. Tarlano, PhD

Presently Dr. Tarlano is Director of Psychological Services and Program Director of Chronic Pain Rehabilitation at Providence Hospital, Cincinnati. He received his PhD from Ohio State University and has considerable post-doctoral training. His illustrious career includes many professional papers and presentations. Earlier this year, Dr. Tarlano and his wife became parents for the second time.



Regina Huffman "Rennie"

Rennie was chosen as Ms. Wheelchair Ohio in 1983, only one year after an accident made her wheelchair-dependent. Since then, she has been active with the Ms. Wheelchair Ohio Committee. She is Director of Residential Services for the Society of Residential Services for the Handicapped Citizens of Median County, Ohio. Involvement includes being the chairperson of the Open Forum, an informational and support system for persons with disabilities in her county. She has been named Medina County's liaison to the National Organization on Disabilities. Rennie recently became the proud adoptive parent of Stacey, now 17 years old.



Jose J. Alvarado "Al"

Al was a judge for Ms. Wheelchair America at the 1989 event in Puerto Rico. He proudly served in the Marines for 22 years active duty and eight years in the reserve. He participated in the Korean conflict and did two tours of duty in Vietnam, receiving the Silver Star for heroism and the Navy Commendation Medal for Valor. After retirement from the Navy, he was commandant of cadets at the Bayamon Military Academy.

Al lives in Puerto Rico with his wife Nancy and four children. He has eight grandchildren.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The Ms. Wheelchair America judging is based upon criteria established by the national committee of the Ms. Wheelchair America Program. The following excerpts were taken from official judging guidelines:

A. Accomplishments (40%)

1. Personal achievements/accomplishments since onset of disability only in the following areas:
* Academic * Vocational * Personal
2. Adjustment to disability.

B. Communicative Skills (40%)

1. Ability to deal with media, peers, civic groups, etc.
2. Public relations skills.
3. Advocacy for persons with disabilities.
4. Self-confidence/ motivation/ initiative/ creativity.

C. Self-perception/projection (20%)*

1. Poise, demeanor.
2. Appropriate attire, personal presentation.

* Ms. Wheelchair America is not a beauty contest and this category is not taken as a license to choose the most attractive entrant. Instead, the items in this category are simply to express a desire to have a pleasing appearance capable of obtaining favorable responses from any audience before which Ms. Wheelchair America would appear.

Ms. Congeniality is chosen by the contestants for this year's pageant for her friendly and cheerful personality and her helpfulness to them during the program weekend.

OFFICIAL ESCORTS — THE UNITED STATES NAVY

SH1 Terry Allen, Navy Recruiting Station, Cincinnati B
STS1 Bert Boyd, Navy Recruiting Station, Covington
BMC Arthur Holt, Navy Recruiting Station, North College Hill
FTB1 Ralph Bronson, Navy Recruiting Station, North College Hill
BM2 Kevin Brown, Navy Recruiting Station, North College Hill
PN1 James Shockey, Navy Recruiting District, Columbus
BM2 Kenneth Street, Navy Recruiting Station, Hamilton
CTI2 Roman Wilshanetsky, Navy Recruiting Station, Western Hills
AOC Ronald Seger, Navy Recruiting Station, Pleasant Ridge
BT1 Kevin Harrington, Southern Zone Supervisor
IC1 Albert Czarnecki, Cincinnati Officer Programs Office
PNC William Keane, Navy Recruiting Processing Station
AD2 Scott Jackson, Navy Recruiting Station, Pleasant Ridge

Ms. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA STATE COORDINATORS



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Louise Gulyas Peuser
Executive Director
Ms. Wheelchair America, Inc.
205 St. Louis Avenue
Ocean City, Maryland 21842
[301] 641-3637

ALABAMA

Barbara Hall
Wheelchair Alabama
1717 Sixth Avenue South
Birmingham, Alabama 35233

CALIFORNIA

Norene Price
MS. Wheelchair California
SO Tarocco Road, #101
Irvine, California 92720
[714] 857-6927

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Yetta W. Galiber
Ms. Wheelchair District of Columbia
300 Eye Street, N.E., Suite 202
Washington, D.C. 20002
[714] 857-6927

FLORIDA

Debbie Kane
Ms. Wheelchair Florida
7125 Sugarbin Street
Orlando, Florida 32822
[407] 275-8557

GEORGIA

Jewell Massey
Ms. Wheelchair Georgia
380 Vista Circle
Macon, Georgia 31204

ILLINOIS

Lou Messervy
Ms. Wheelchair Illinois
1600 South Grand East
Springfield, Illinois 62703
[217] 544-3268

INDIANA

Sheli Taulbee
Ms. Wheelchair Indiana
1608 Windsor Woods Boulevard, S.
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46845

IOWA

Al Blumenhorst
Iowa Paralyzed Veterans
3703-1/2 Douglas Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

LOUISIANA

Ken Vince
P.O. Box 94371
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9371

MARYLAND

John C. Peuser
16307 Alderwood Lane
Bowie, Maryland 20716-1512
[301] 249-7393

MASSACHUSETTS

Robert Bailly
Center for Living and Working, Inc.
484 Main Street, #345
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608
[508] 798-0350

MICHIGAN

Cheryl Watkins
Center for Independent Living
4 East Alexandriny, ~104
Detroit, Michigan 48201
[313] 745-9726

MINNESOTA

Kathy Wingen
1553 14th Street, SE
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56304
[612] 259-4003

MISSISSIPPI

Carol Wilson
P.O. Box 1138
Oxford, Mississippi 38655

NEVADA

Kathy Olson
3100 Mill Street, #115
Reno, Nevada 89502
[702] 789-0367

NORTH CAROLINA

Odessa Crowe
4907 Little Mountain Road
Gastonia, North Carolina 28054

NEW JERSEY

Roy Hinton
210 Rivervale Road
Rivervale, New Jersey 07675

OHIO

Laurie C. Caufield Deanna Butler
Vice President Recording Secretary
MWA Board of Directors
Good Samaritan Hospital
Rehabilitation Center
3217 Clifton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220-2489
[513] 872-2481 FAX: [513] 872-3435

PUERTO RICO

Mario Cruz Ortiz
P.O. Box 2084
Bayamon, Puerto Rico 00621
[809] 740-6025

SOUTH CAROLINA

Kathy Dunlap-Adams
44 Windsor Point Road, #15
Columbia, South Carolina 29223
[803] 254-5222

TENNESSEE

Beverly Jones
R.R. 1 Box 132-B
Red Boiling, Tennessee 37150

UTAH

Sherry L. Repscher
President
MWA Board of Directors
1598 Richards Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
[801] 538-4210

VIRGINIA

Betty Royall
11414 Lindenshire Lane
Richmond, Virginia 23233
[804] 282-4111

WASHINGTON STATE

Kay Burns
3806 South Vancouver
Kennewick, Washington 99337
[509] 586-3351

WEST VIRGINIA

Barbara Null
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Dunbar, West Virginia 25064

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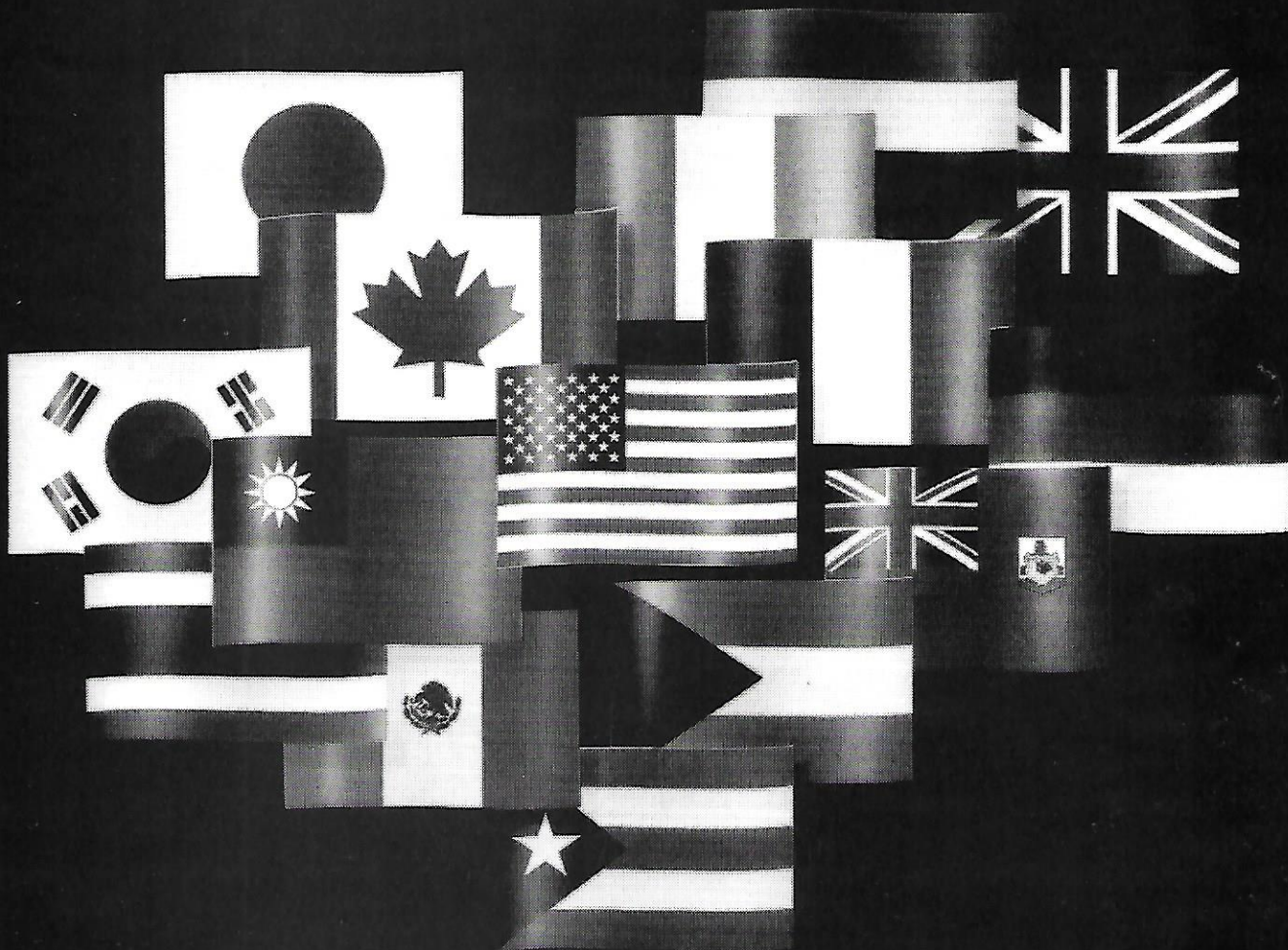
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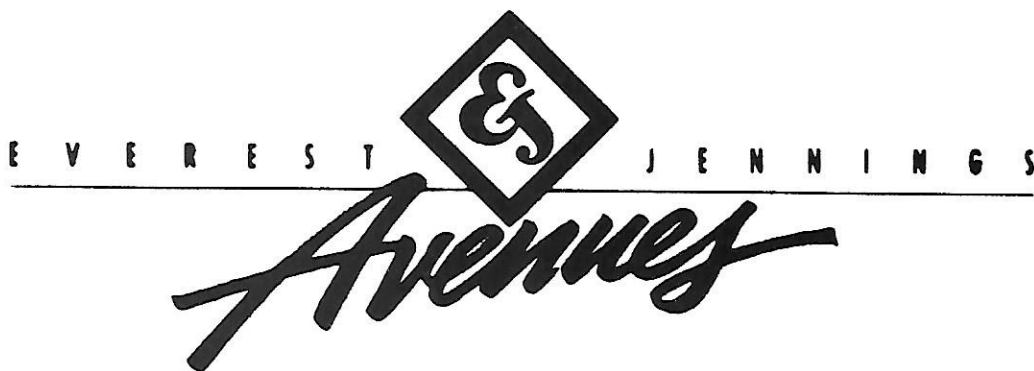
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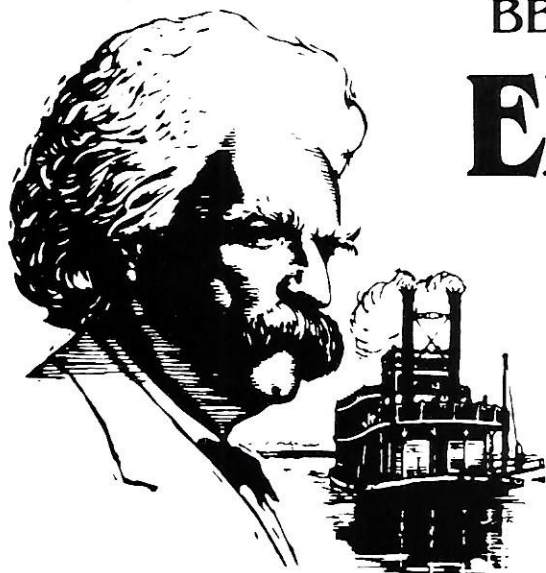
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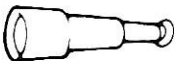
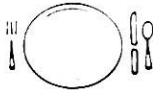


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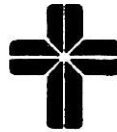


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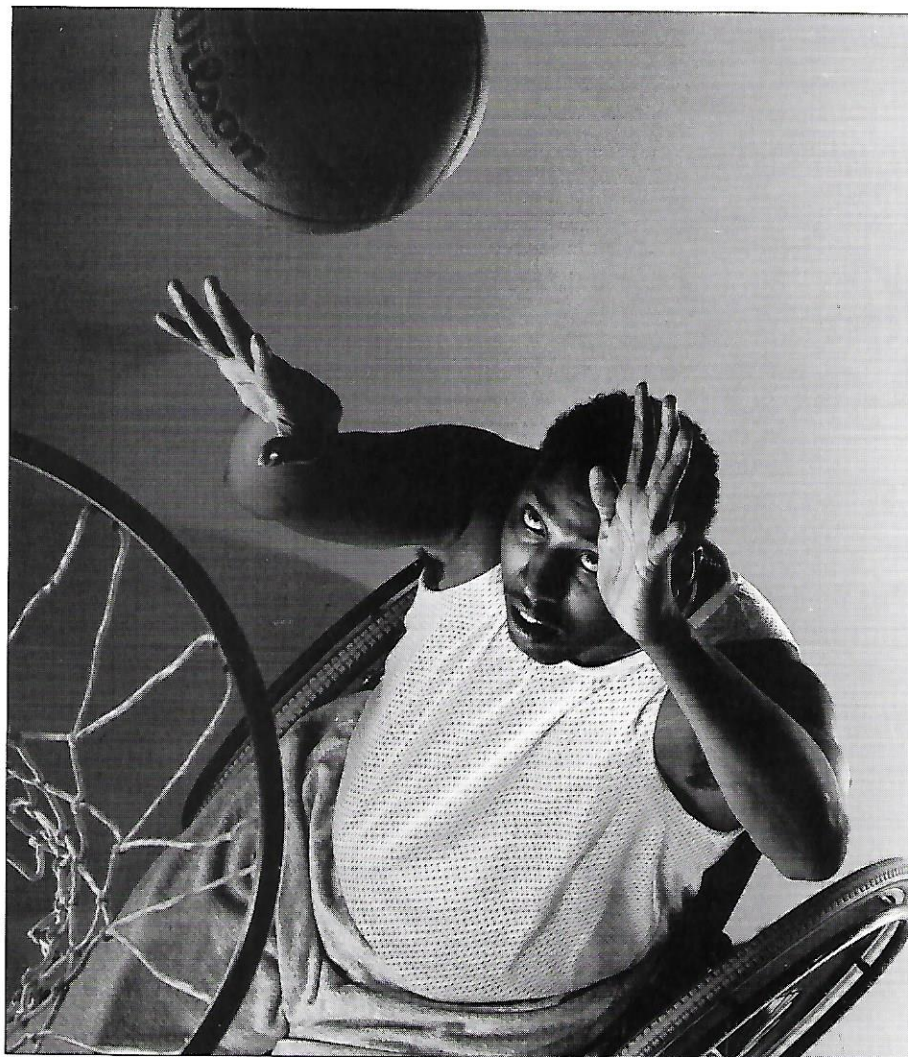
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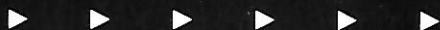
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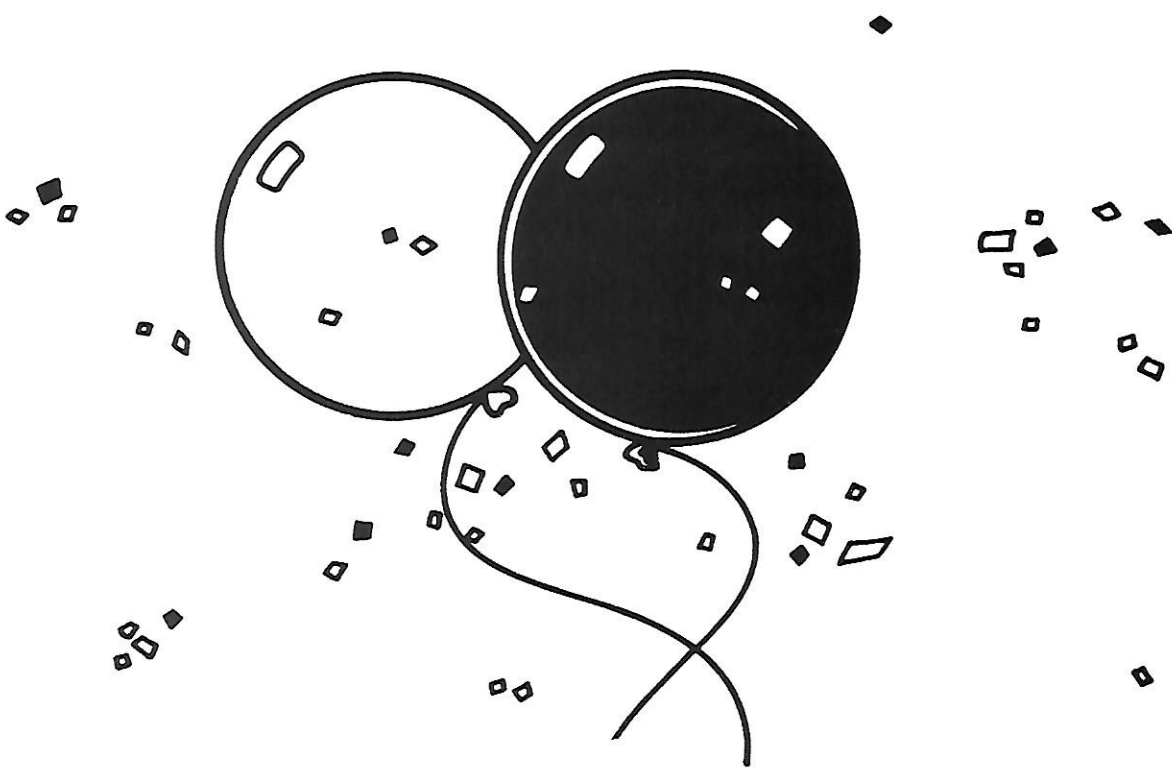
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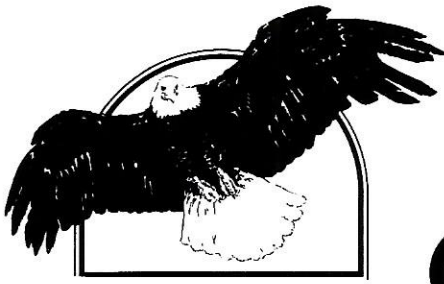


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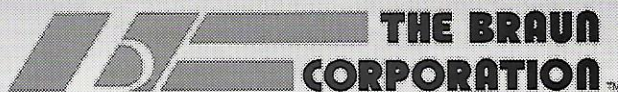
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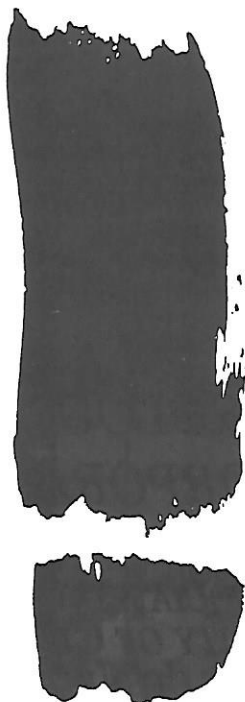


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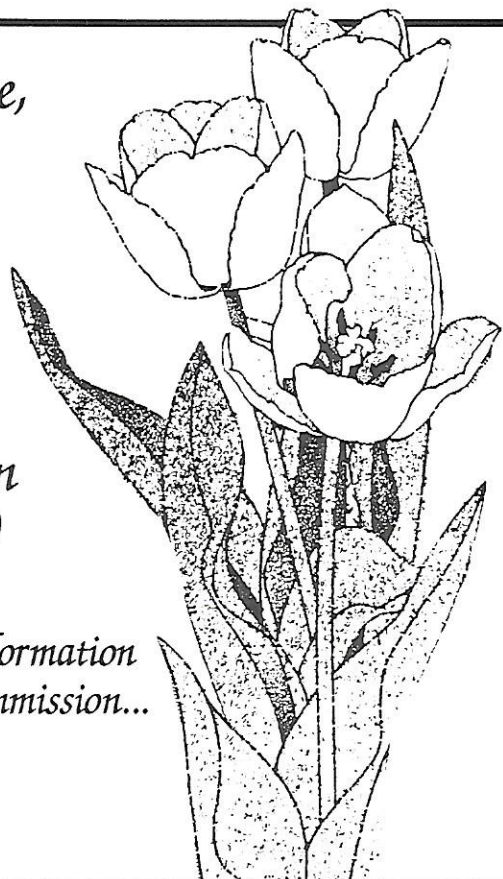
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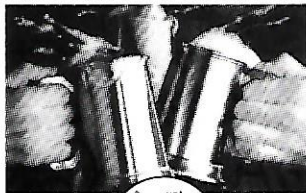
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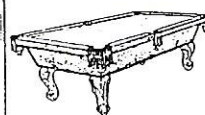
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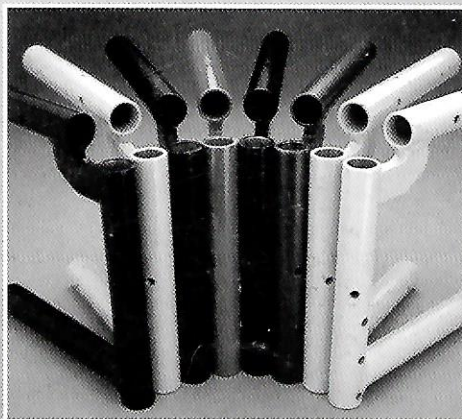


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