



April showers bring the flowers

photo by Laura Hatch

Petunias, pansies and alyssums are just a few of the flowers to be planted in the beds by the aerobics track once Sandra Patterson, left, and

Mary Duke, grounds maintenance workers, finish weeding. Patterson has been a grounds worker for five years; Duke has worked here two years.

Groups: Changes to harm disabled

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration wants to revise the nation's major civil rights law for the handicapped by bringing it in line with its own federal deregulation drive.

United Press International obtained a draft Tuesday of a budget office proposal to rewrite guidelines implementing the law that protects an estimated 35 million handicapped people.

Groups representing the handicapped criticized the suggested changes in the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, including one that would allow institutions to judge a handicapped person's potential contributions to society in deciding how to grant him access to the facility.

"What they're proposing to do is so drastic it's an amendment of the statute by federal rule-making procedure," said Reese Robrahn, executive director of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities.

The statute's most visible results include access ramps to buildings across the country and special buses to serve the disabled.

The law bars discrimination against the handicapped by recipients of federal funds, including transit authorities, airports, schools, hospitals and other health facilities, libraries and public housing projects.

The Justice Department sent the Office of Management and Budget proposed changes to soften the guidelines under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. OMB replied by urging bigger changes.

One proposal in both drafts would shrink the law's scope by applying it only to those programs within institutions that receive federal money. For example, if a school's physics department gets federal research funds currently, the entire school is subject to the law. The change would mean only the physics laboratory would be covered.

The budget office draft also would drop coverage of elementary and secondary schools, citing duplicate provisions in another law.

Also to be discarded, under the proposal, would be all references to employment discrimination. Courts rulings disagree on whether the law applies to employment.

Robrahn said the change would leave the handicapped

with inadequate job protection.

The OMB draft proposes that recipients of federal funds be allowed to take into account "the value of the accommodation to society, taking full account of the potential contributions to society of handicapped persons" in deciding what accommodations must be made for the handicapped.

Administration officials who met with handicapped groups to outline the proposed changes said they "caught so much flak" they promised to rewrite the provision.

Robrahn said, however, the rewritten version is likely to be just as objectionable.

"They didn't say, 'We'll eliminate this provision,'" he said. "They said, 'We'll find some substitute language.'"

If "unreasonable expense" is involved, the recipients of federal money can refuse to accommodate the handicapped, according to the OMB draft.

The Justice proposal also contained one provision praised by handicapped groups, requiring the government to determine before awarding money if the recipient was likely to discriminate. OMB watered down that provision in its draft.

Zimbabwe leader vows to help white minority

United Press International SALISBURY, Zimbabwe — Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, seeking to stem the flight of whites and their managerial skills from his black-ruled nation, vowed to attend to the needs of the white minority who voted Tuesday to fill a vacancy in the 100-member Parliament.

The parliamentary by-election came a day after Mugabe lauded the split in the white Republican Front Party of former Prime Minister Ian Smith. Nine of its parliamentary representatives had resigned to become independents.

The nine charged that Smith was uncooperative with the government and Mugabe hailed their actions as a positive step that would make it easier for the government to work with the white independents.

Three candidates — a Smith-backed conservative, a Democratic Party moderate and an independent — are vying to represent Matabeleland province, whose conservative representative resigned last year.

In accordance with its British-drafted constitution, Zimbabwe's Parliament must, during the first five years following its April 1980 independence, include a minimum of 20 white legislators.

Only members of the nation's

white population — sapped by an emigration rate of about 1,500 each month — can vote in the election to fill the vacant seat.

Of the 80 parliamentary seats allotted to blacks, 57 are held by Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), 20 by the Zimbabwe African People's Party (ZAPU) and three by the United African National Council (UANC).

"Whatever political or other differences exist between us," Mugabe said Tuesday, addressing white fears of black-majority rule, "the one dangerous thing which we should never

allow to occur is to cease talking to each other."

In reference to a record 20,000 whites who emigrated last year, Mugabe said he had sympathy for those who left the country fearing for their future.

"These I am prepared to assure they need not fear my government will victimize or discriminate against or fail to create circumstances that reward their productive skills," he said.

The white flight has drained the pool of skilled technicians, teachers and civil servants crucial to help run Zimbabwe, the former British colony of Rhodesia.

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Executive: Jobs open

ST. LOUIS — The head of a teaching program company says there are many jobs available, despite a general rise in unemployment.

Sarah Resnick, president of Media Systems Corp., said Tuesday about 350,000 secretarial

jobs are vacant nationwide because no one is trained to take them.

"There are few areas of the country where a skilled typist can't find employment," Resnick said. "And there are thousands of openings for people trained in data processing,

basic accounting and word processing."

Junior colleges are best equipped to provide the needed vocational training, Resnick said.

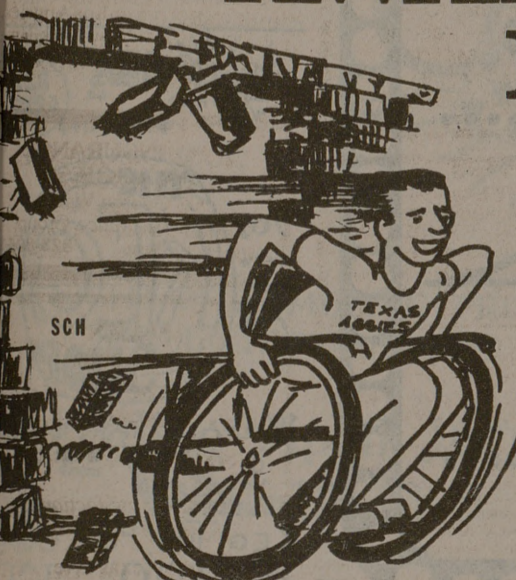
Media Systems sells audiovisual instructional programs to many of the nation's two-year colleges.

HANDICAPPED AWARENESS DAY

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

LET'S BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS!

- CRUISE THE CAMPUS IN A WHEELCHAIR! CHECK OUT AT RUDDER FOUNTAIN ALL DAY
- 2:00 PM. 504 RUDDER: SLIDE PRESENTATION, CHAT WITH HANDICAPPED STUDENTS, REFRESHMENTS; EVERYONE INVITED
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