

DISABILITY CULTURE



Covering the news, creating the news.

NAMING AND CLAIMING WHO WE ARE, WHERE WE COME FROM, AND WHERE WE WANT TO GO.



Within the broader disability rights movement, there has been a shift from rights to an emphasis on disability culture. Dr. Paul Longmore, a professor of disability studies, has noted that the disability rights approach is still in some sense rooted in the assumption that disability is less desirable. By contrast, disability culture asserts that disability is not to be hidden, healed, or even overcome. Disability is a culture, full of shared history and experiences that should be honored and practiced.

Barbie's new friend in a wheelchair, named after activist Becky Ogle. Many activists hated the "Share A Smile" moniker and she's now known simply as Becky.

Defining and re-imagining ourselves.

Remembering our heroes.



1990

The Education for All Handicapped Children Act is amended and renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

1991

Jerry's Orphans stages its first annual picket of the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon.

1991

Federal "Home of your own" initiative begins.

After seven years, Sharon Kowalski, a woman disabled from an accident, is finally able to leave the "protective custody" of a nursing home and live at home with her partner Karen.

1993

Wade Blank, one of the founders of ADAPT, dies trying to save his son from drowning.

1994

The Remembering with Dignity project begins in St. Paul, Minnesota, with the goal of placing names on the numbered graves in Minnesota's institutions and getting an apology from the state for years of abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

Death of Roland Johnson, a nationally recognized advocate for all people with disabilities.

1995

The First International Symposium on Issues of Women with Disabilities is held in Beijing, China in conjunction with the Fourth World Conference on Women.