

COVER STORY

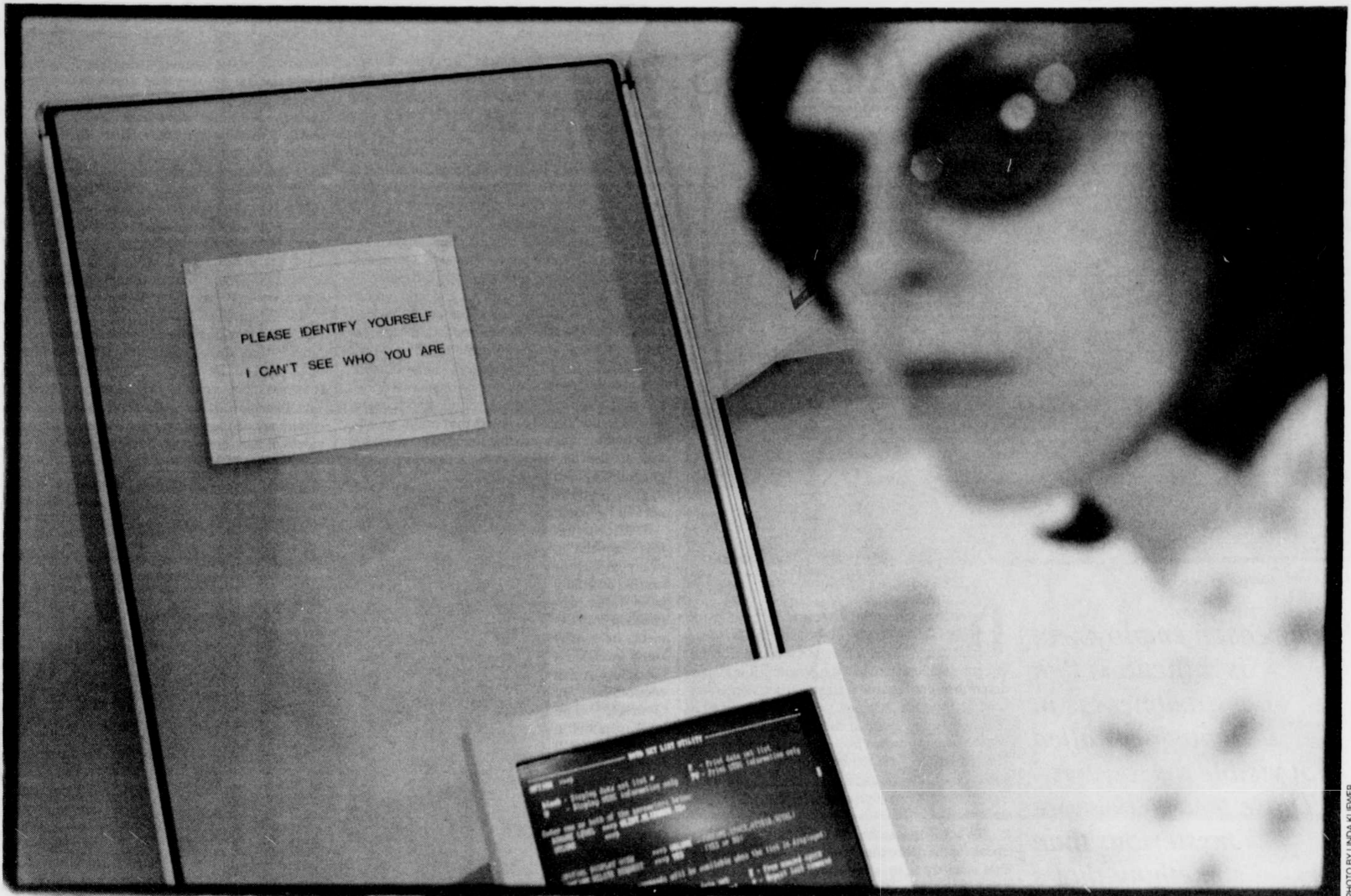


PHOTO BY LINDA KLEVER

# THE ISSUE IS ACCESS

None of us is born with a lifetime guarantee of sight, hearing, health or mobility. We are all vulnerable to some form of disability.

by Risa Krivé

**M**any barriers prevent differently abled people from participating fully in the myriad activities that constitute life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in our society. The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1991 to help mitigate these barriers. This federal law mandates "reasonable accommodations" for disabled people in employment, public places, communications and government. The ADA makes employment discrimination against disabled people illegal. It addresses mobility disabilities (such as wheelchair use), visual and hearing impairments, mental disabilities, and mental illness. However, many of the barriers to full participation have yet to be removed. I spoke with three people about their experiences and about other "reasonable accommodations" that we need to make in our envisioning, planning and structuring of society to make equal access a reality.

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