



# Family Living

## Enforcement of children's civil rights sought

CONTRIBUTOR STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Every state and the District of Columbia is out of compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements, according to the National Council on Disability's (NCD) evaluation of nearly 2 decades of federal enforcement.

NCD released its report "Back to School on Civil Rights," detailing the enforcement and implementation of IDEA, during a Jan. 25 news conference in Washington, D.C. The report is the second in the NCD's "Unequal Protection Under the Law" series of independent analysis of federal civil right enforcement for Americans with disabilities. The report offers recommendations to the President and Congress on how IDEA can be better enforced.

"This study confirms what children with disabilities have repeatedly told NCD, that noncompliance has persisted in some state over many years," said Marca Bristo, NCD chairperson. "This noncompliance has placed enormous burdens on children and families."

Unfortunately, the burden is often more severe for low-income and minority families. "Minorities with disabilities get hit with discrimination twice because they have a disability and they are a minority," explained, NCD vice chair Hughey Walker, a judge in Georgetown, SC.

"Countless numbers of children with disabilities, especially those from low-income, ethnic and racial minority or rural communities are still not receiving the full benefit of the law," Bristo added. "They struggle daily to obtain the services and support they need to learn."

Carolyn Cooper was entangled in such a struggle for years. Cooper, now president of the United Advocates for Children of California, told the gathering about the many difficulties she faced with the education system while trying to obtain proper schooling for her "emotionally challenged and learning disabled" son, Titus. She said the various authorities in California were "unresponsive and worthless." She said her son finally received the Individualized Education Program when he was 21 years old.

Sadly, however, soon after getting the appropriate education program, "my child, my boy was shot down," Cooper said. "But I have not given up the good fight" to seek help for children with disabilities.

The NCD study found that many parents of children with disabilities, like Cooper, spend endless resources confronting obstacles to their child's basic right to have an appropriate education, often at the expense of their personal lives, their financial livelihoods and their careers.

The report also showed that the Department of Education under Secretary Richard Riley, has been more effective in using sanctions than previous administrations. However, Bristo stressed that NCD's evaluation spanned several administrations: Clinton, Bush, Reagan, Carter, and Ford. Bristo thanked Riley for "his efforts to improve enforcement of IDEA, an important civil rights law that directly affects children with disabilities."

## Disney's Toy Story on ice sure to treat

CONTRIBUTOR STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In a young boy's room where toys come to life, a loose-limbed cowboy and a high-flying space ranger band together to fight the forces of evil and discover the meaning of true friendship along the way, in *Disney on Ice presents Toy Story*. Based on Disney's endearing and laugh-powered, digitally-enhanced comedic adventure, Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Hamm, Mr. Potato head and a gang of spirited toys come to life on ice in this rousing one-of-a-kind spectacular.

Produced by Kenneth Feld, *Disney on Ice presents Toy Story* morphs Disney's 1995 blockbuster film "to infinity and beyond" in this \$8 million action-packed live family entertainment extravaganza. Choreographed by Olympic Gold Medalist Robin Cousins, the production mixes laughter with careening car chases, daring rescues and high-flying heroics. An international cast of world-class figure skaters, led by American Eddie Gornick as Woody and Russia's Alexander Klimkin as Buzz Lightyear, bring the animated toys to life.

Each plaything is smartly outfitted in timeless toy attire by Broadway costume designer Frank Krenz. "The real challenge was to give all the toys that plastic-coated look," he notes. Production Designer Robert Little put pen to paper to create an array of oversized environs: Andy's room, the Pizza Planet and a speeding moving van. The lighting wizardry of rock-and-roll luminary LeRoy Bennett wraps up the spectacular in a magnificent rainbow of color, movement and intensity.

The adventure begins in six-year old Andy's room, where toys magically come to life when people are not around. The room is ruled by



Woody and his pal Buzz Lightyear demonstrate that "You've got a friend in Me" as a tale of two toys unfolds in *Disney on Ice presents Toy Story*.

Woody, an old-fashioned pull-string cowboy—Andy's favorite toy—until Buzz Lightyear arrives and turns Woody's world upside down. A space ranger sworn to defend the galaxy against the Evil Emperor Zurg.

Buzz Lightyear comes equipped with retractable jet wings, a laser, and an advanced vocabulary that leaves Woody in the dust! And so the showdown begins... until the duo's antics lead them into the evil clutches

of Sid, the boy next door who delights in terrorizing toys. Woody and Buzz escape one hair-raising adventure after another and learn the value of friendship by trusting and helping each other.

Calm your Web site anxiety >>> AT&T Small Business Hosting Services

## AT&T Web Hosting: \$25/month

Finally, Web hosting without a host of complications. Now you can have a business-quality Web site and the support of AT&T at an affordable price. Starting at \$25/month, you get a world-class Web site with business features like domain name service, CGI scripting, e-mail, and more. Plus, you can take advantage of:

- Online Sign-Up
- Usage Reports
- 24x7 Technical Support
- Account Control Panel
- Content Preview Site
- Microsoft® FrontPage® Extensions

Big or small, AT&T has Internet access, hosting, and e-commerce solutions for you because *there's no room for small thinking in small business.*<sup>SM</sup>

Order online now!

[www.ipservices.att.com/sbh5](http://www.ipservices.att.com/sbh5)

Or call 1 800 288-3199, Ext. 105

AT&T net.working™



© 2000 AT&T