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## Disabled youngsters getting in shape for Pace fundraiser



By Ivan Crosbie  
Staff Writer

Former Dodger player Tommy Davis and Jerry Proctor, holder of the National AAU Championship for long jump, are among noted individuals who will kick off the first "Wheel-Walk-Jog-a-Thon" Friday.

Handicapped youngsters from cities throughout the Southeast will participate in the event sponsored by the Pace Parent Teacher Organization. The event will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the school located at 8625 Van Ruiten St. in Bellflower.

The organization — a non-profit group which raises funds to aid handicapped children attending Pace School in Bellflower — will bring together for the first time in competition youngsters who suffer from various forms of disability.

The objective of the event, according to Nidra Reed, assistant principal of Pace, is to raise \$10,000 to fund activities such as art, music, field trips, bowling, swimming, cooking, and gardening. Funds for these activities were eliminated this year, Reed explained, as a result of a significant

**Finger exercise**  
— Priscilla Wilson, one of Pace's teachers, supervises handicapped student Trisha Perales as she performs a finger coordination exercise. Perales is one of about 255 handicapped students attending Pace from cities throughout the Southeast area, including South Gate, Paramount and Lynwood.

reduction in the 1983 budget for Los Angeles Unified School District. Pace is a part of LAUSD.

Considered to be the largest school in the Southeast which provides educational training for handicapped youths, Pace draws youngsters from South Gate, Paramount, Lynwood, Compton and Montebello.

Reed said the reason Pace has become involved in this fundraising event "is out of necessity this year, because of the state's cutbacks and deficits in funding, which is where we get all our money."

"Funds for field trips and outdoor education have been completely deleted from our budgets," she explained.

"For some schools, communities might interpret field trips and outdoor education as being a plus," she continued, "particularly if the youngsters come from such socio-economic backgrounds where they're sent frequently to summer camps, and have a lot of family experiences in doing things in the expansive community."

"But because so many of our children are in wheel chairs, families can't even carry them in their cars, or they may not have a car."

For this reason Pace's programs are geared to providing mobility training for the students, and exposing them to the broader community.

"Through this exposure," she explained, "we'll teach them how to behave with strangers in an un-protected environment."

Reed said the jog-a-thon will provide two things. First, it will help "raise money to cover the cost of the camp" for the students. Second, it will "cover the cost of transportation" to the camp.

In order to get to the camp, however, at least two buses will be needed to transport students. The cost for the two buses has been estimated at \$237.

This figure does not include special buses which are required to transport students in wheel chairs. Such buses, individually, can accommodate only 19 students in wheel chairs.

The event, she believes, will also provide "additional experiences" for the rest of the students, and make the community at large aware of "our dependency and need of its support."

Currently, Pace has an enrollment of approximately 255-260 students, ages 14-22.

A staff of 75 professional and classified employees oversees the day-to-day operation of the 27 on-campus classes the school offers. Inclusive in this number are 27 teachers who, with the help of aides, provide the training for the students. However, the staff at the school has been reduced significantly as a result of the budget cuts. In the past, for instance, Pace used to receive \$100 from LAUSD for each of its classes to pay for the students' camp and outdoor education.

As of this year, however, it will not receive anything.

Usually, the county pays half of the expenses for student outdoor education. The other half is usually paid by the students' parents.

Dr. Pat Zega, staff psychologist, described most of the students at Pace as being "severely disabled" with I.Q.'s ranging from 50-60.

"Most of the kids are physically and mentally handicapped," Zega explained. "Most can't hold a job and could never function independent of supervision."

Because the students spend the major part of their lives indoors and are unable to get adequate outdoor exposure due to their disabilities, Zega said the jog-a-thon will give them that opportunity.

"I hope every child in the school will be able to participate," he added.

## Cable TV launches program

BY IVAN CROSBIE  
City Editor

A 10-week community training program on "cablesystems' installation and sales" will begin Wednesday, May 25, in Lynwood as phase one of a 15-year contract between the city and California Cablesystems, Inc.

Residents from four other Southeast cities — Downey, Paramount, Bell Gardens and Santa Fe Springs — will come to the company's public access

studio in Lynwood to take part in the training program.

Earlier this month, the company officially approved its 15-year contract with Lynwood. It calls for the training of 20-25 residents of the city per year in the areas of sales, business office, and technical aspects of the cable industry.

The agreement binds the company to provide "travel expenses" for trainees who are required to go outside of the

system limits for training; to award certificates of completion to those who successfully satisfy the course requirements; to hire from among those who receive such certificates on a "need" basis; and to provide a quarterly report on the progress of the program.

The company has also agreed to provide the city with four percent of its gross revenues to finance "access programming" for multiple cultural and educational

programs of residents living in the five cities, according to Rudi Engel of California Cablesystems.

Engel, who was recently promoted to the post of executive vice-president and regional manager of the company's California operations, said that this

percentage will be given to the city for the first four years of the company's operation. After that term, city will have the option to accept either the four percent or whichever amount is greater.

The amount given to each city depends on that city's population. According to Engel, \$648,000 was allocated to the five cities for fiscal year 1982-83.

Downey, which has the largest population of the five-city consortium, received \$300,000. Lynwood, which comes in second, collected \$117,000. The remainder was

distributed among the other three cities with Santa Fe Springs getting the lowest amount due to its comparative small population.