

## ADA 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event

The passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990 brought this nation a step closer to providing proper and equitable rights to millions of citizens previously oppressed by any number of reactions to their disabilities. Since 1990, and with further legislation, we as a nation have tried to live up to our belief in equal opportunity and our belief that improving the lives of some people reaps benefits for all others. The ADA has opened the doors of opportunity and in so doing, has liberated millions. NC State has participated in this liberation.

To celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of the ADA, the Office of Disability Services for Students, in conjunction with the Dept. of Communication, the Office of the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Women's Center, will sponsor an event featuring Henry Holden on Wednesday, October 25, 2000 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in the Cinema located in the Witherspoon Student Center. Mr. Holden will present, "The Misconceptions Continue: How the Media Represent People with Disabilities." This lecture will be followed by a panel discussion lead by faculty from the Dept. of Communication.

Mr. Holden contracted polio at the age of four, during the 1952 National Polio Epidemic, but wearing braces and crutches has never stopped him from pursuing his dream of acting. He has appeared on the TV shows, *AFTERmash*, *T.J. Hooker*, *Hill Street Blues*, and *Knots Landing*. His athletic accomplishments include downhill skiing, certified scuba diving, bowling a high of 196 in league competition, flying gliders and single engine airplanes and riding at the National Horse Show at Madison Square Garden. Mr. Holden speaks with great pride about being part of the North American Wheelchair Association and finishing the Los Angeles Marathon. He is the recipient of the first Annual American Scene Award, given by the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. The Screen Actors Guild has also bestowed upon him the Joseph P. Riley Award for his work in the founding of the committee, Performers With Disabilities, and for always stressing the importance of including performers with disabilities in all forms of entertainment. In addition, Mr. Holden is the producer of *Look Who's Laughing*, the award-winning documentary that focuses on six comedians with disabilities.

Mr. Holden speaks at college campuses across the country. His lecture is not only dynamic in content but his delivery evokes humble laughter. He is helping audiences understand the misconceptions of persons with disabilities, and at the same time, helping to reshape misperceptions portrayed by the mass media. Audiences nationwide have responded to Mr. Holden's program in such a positive way that he was selected as a finalist for the "Lecture of the Year" by the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities. Mr. Holden's commitment toward educating people on the abilities of persons with disabilities is unwavering. We think Henry Holden can enlighten the thinking for many people on this campus.

Persons with disabilities who need any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, should contact Cheryl Branker 513-3768 (voice) or 515-8830 (TTY) during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at least one week prior to the event.