

E-CONNECTOR

News from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)

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Editor’s Note: Please feel free to contact us if you have an announcement you would like included in the newsletter or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: copobc@gmail.com, attention Julie Hunter, editor

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THREE “VISUALLY IMPAIRED” MICE: POLITICAL CORRECTNESS GONE TOO FAR ?

Since the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) passed in 1990, there seemingly has been an increase in sensitivity to terminology relating to people with disabilities, including the use of the word “blind”. A recent newspaper cartoon depicted a book store with a children’s book in the window. The title of the book was “Three Visually Impaired Mice”. The cartoon amusingly suggests that even the title of a cherished nursery rhyme must now be changed in order to be politically correct. Labels such as “Sight Impaired” and “Visually Challenged” are sometimes used in place of the word “blind”. Many people seem to feel that the word “blind” is a harsh and shameful word which needs to be

avoided. It’s time for those of us who love a blind person to use the term “blind” without flinching! There is nothing embarrassing or disgraceful about it. Being blind, whatever the degree of vision loss, is merely a characteristic. Just as we might describe our child as short (vertically challenged?) and blonde (pigment impaired?), so do we need to be comfortable using the word “blind.” As long as we make sure that our children are learning the alternative techniques of blindness so that they can compete on an equal footing in the world, then there is no shame in being blind.



NFB IN ACTION

MAKING THE KINDLE E-READER ACCESSIBLE TO THE BLIND

The NFB is working diligently to force Amazon to make the Kindle accessible to blind consumers. As more and more schools require e-reader

devices for delivering course material, the issue of accessibility will eventually touch all of our children.

The following was excerpted from a June 27, 2012 press release

National Federation of the Blind Files Complaint Against State Department

Seeks to Stop Distribution of Inaccessible Kindles Abroad

Baltimore, Maryland (June 27, 2012): The [National Federation of the Blind](#), a leader in the struggle for civil and human rights for blind people all over the world, today filed a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights for the United States Department of State, alleging that the State Department's plan to purchase and deploy 35,000 Amazon Kindles throughout the world violates federal law because blind people cannot independently access and use the devices or their content. The State Department has announced plans to purchase 35,000 of Amazon's dedicated e-reading devices under a sole-source contract, at a cost of \$16.5 million, as part of an international learning program being referred to as the Kindle Mobile Learning Initiative. The aim of this program is to create a global e-reader program that introduces aspects of U.S. society and culture directly to

young people, students, and international audiences. The plan will involve deploying the Kindles to embassies, libraries, and other entities around the world. Blind readers cannot independently access the text-to-speech reading and voice-guided menu features of the Kindle, and cannot independently navigate within a book once it is opened, meaning that they must simply read it from beginning to end.

Four international organizations have joined in the complaint--[the World Blind Union](#), [the South African National Council for the Blind](#), [the DAISY Consortium](#), and [the DAISY Forum of India](#)—are also named complainants. Dr. Marc Maurer, President of the National Federation of the Blind, said: "Access to information is a fundamental human right, and blind Americans, as well as our brothers and sisters throughout the world, insist that this right be upheld."

Marianne Diamond, president of the World Blind Union (WBU), said: "The WBU represents over 285 million blind people throughout the world and believes strongly that the blind and others who cannot read print must have access to published materials on the same terms as the sighted. It is critical that the United States demonstrate leadership in this area by

procuring and providing reading technology that everyone can use independently."



KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Here's a new release from National Braille Press: (Taken from their website.)

Stir It Up! Recipes and Techniques for Young Blind Cooks

Stir It Up! was created especially for young blind children to get started in the kitchen! We all love to eat and we all need to know how to prepare food - blind children are no exception!

Cooking is a multi-sensory experience involving taste, touch, smell, and hearing - all modes of perception that blind children can use to prepare food. Dozens of recipes from popular children's cookbooks and cooking blogs have been tested, tasted, accepted (or rejected), and modified for young blind chefs.

The left side of the page includes adaptive cooking techniques, and the right side

contains simple instructions for young blind cooks. The print/Braille book format allows everyone in the family to cook from the same book.

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Berry Dip & Roll
Doggie Paws (treats for dogs)

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Egg Salad
Anytime Apple Quesadillas
Mummy Dogs

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Chicken Fingers a la Ritz
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Easy Popovers
Sweet Potato Casserole
Corn Spoon Pie
Parmesan Zucchini Chips

Sweets & Party Treats

Homemade Ice Cream in a Bag
Party-Time Punch
Peanut-Butter Kisses
Jamie's Buttons



ONE COOL CLOCK!

Moshi Voice Controlled Talking Travel Clock.

This clock has an Interactive Voice Response feature which enables the user to obtain information from the clock by using voice commands. After pushing the "IVR" button, one can inquire about the time and indoor temperature as well as set the time and manage the alarm...all by voice command! Three alarm sounds as well as a snooze function are available. Asking for "help" lists all the available spoken prompts. The time and alarm can also be set manually. The temperature can be announced in either Fahrenheit or Celsius. The clock measures 3 3/4 by 2 3/4 by 1 inches and uses 3 AAA batteries (included). \$24.00.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

The month of August will be "laid back" at the Colorado Center for the Blind, after an incredibly busy and action packed series of summer

programs for children and youth. The main attraction for August is the fantastic [Western Welcome Week](#) sponsored by the city of Littleton. Western Welcome Week features over 50 events, includes concerts, fireworks, carnival, used book sale, BBQ's, festival day parade, arts and crafts, food, carnival rides, relay for life, car show, Colorado Scottish festival, kid's fishing derby, used book sale and much more. The celebration will begin on Wednesday, August 8, 2012 and continues through Sunday, August 19. Here are a few things families and kids may not want to miss:

Sunday, August 12

8:00-11:00 a.m.

Arapahoe Community College lawn: Panning for Gold, Bubble Blowing, Cow Milking, Bronc Riding, and Face Painting

Saturday, August 18: Grand Parade

Families and kids are invited to join the Colorado Center for the Blind staff and students as they march in the Grand Parade on Saturday, August 18. If you are interested in joining the parade, call Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 extension 222. Parade participants will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Center. Brent will give you the details.

Look for the information table about blindness sponsored and manned by members of the Denver chapter of NFB-CO.