

## Editor's Preface

In preparing this issue (as editor) and the last issue, I had an epiphany of sorts. In the Winter 2000 issue Mairian Corker's article "Deaf Studies and Disability Studies: An Epistemic Conundrum" contained a discussion of the linguistic distinctions between the way Deaf children view themselves and their world and how they view people with disabilities. (Her article covers much more than that.) In this issue Tim Epp's article "Disability: Discourse, Experience and Identity" discusses models of disability as he found them in his conversations with members of People First of Canada in a local chapter, a provincial chapter, and the national organization. (He also discusses more than the models.) In both articles the authors present quotes in which Deaf children and then members of People First stated that they were not disabled. A person with a disability was usually one with a mobility impairment, often who could not talk clearly or take care of him/herself, and was one of "those people" with whom the speaker not only did not identify, but saw as holding an inferior status.

It suddenly occurred to me that although I have over half a century as a disability advocate who worked along side of groups such as the Deaf community and members of People First (politely avoiding the question of who was a person with a disability), I was being told that as a wheelchair user I was disabled and held an inferior status in society in the view of some persons who might or might not identify as people with disabilities. I could celebrate that here were two groups who had developed enough self-consciousness to reject the artificial label of person with a disability. At the same time I could not help but feel some rejection and hurt. My mixed feelings remain still.

This symposium on Multiple Disabling Situations is a proper one to deal with my mixed feelings. It is an excellent issue professionally prepared and put together by Tanis Doe. My thanks to her and to all of the contributors for this symposium.

All matters concerning subscriptions and production are handled by the national headquarters of the Society. The address is: Professor Carol Gill, Disability Studies Quarterly, Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago (MC 626), 1640 Roosevelt Road, #236, Chicago, IL 60608-6904 or <bean@uic.edu>

In addition *DSQ* is now paged continuously through the four print issues. The pagination in the email and disk versions will not conform with the print version.

In September 1994 (three months before his death) Irv Zola began plans to publish *Meaningful Relationships/Moments in Time*, an autobiographical collection of 21 short stories all of which carry a disability theme. A copy may be obtained in exchange for donations (\$10 is suggested) to Boston Self Help Center, or to Friends of Howe Library (where Irv's books and papers are being archived for use by the public), or to Disability Studies Quarterly. Send your check to Irv's wife: Judy Norsigian, 43 Waban Hill Rd. N., Newton, MA 02167. Please remember to include your name and address.

David Pfeiffer,  
Editor

