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Disabled Consumers’ Network to Premiere UD-Produced Video

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DISABLED CONSUMERS' NETWORK
TO PREMIERE UD-PRODUCED VIDEO

DAYTON, Ohio, October 13, 1988—"The Challenge of Independence," a video tape produced for the Disabled Consumers' Network by the University of Dayton's Information Systems Laboratory, will be shown publicly for the first time on Wednesday, Oct. 26.

A reception will be held at Gem Plaza, Third and Main St. in Dayton, from 5 to 7 p.m. in honor of the first anniversary of "We The People," the newsletter of the Disabled Consumers' Network. The 30-minute video will receive its premiere at the reception at approximately 5:45 p.m. Those interested in attending the event are asked to call (513) 435-0988 or (513) 836-0092 for reservations by Oct. 24.

"The Challenge of Independence" features four local residents who are members of the Disabled Consumers' Network. "The primary goal was to give people with disabilities positive role models," said Jeanne Jackson, president of the organization. "The video encourages persons with disabilities to try for a more independent lifestyle. The four persons in the video talk about being afraid to try, but they got past that fear and did try."

Those featured in the program include Claude Ray, a 65-year-old retiree who lost his sight at the age of 19; Becky Center, a licensed pilot, offset press operator, single mother and college student who has been deaf since birth; Johnnie Wilder Jr., a composer and arranger of music who has quadriplegia as a result of a 1979 car accident; and Vicki Russell, a young woman who is developmentally disabled and has recently made the transition
from a group home to an apartment she shares with a roommate. The narrator is Jim Dolphin, a Wright State University student who has paraplegia.

The video, an all-volunteer effort, was created and written by people with disabilities. It will be made available for purchase or rent nationwide. It was produced by John Weiler, director of UD's Center for Business and Economic Research, and directed by Thomas Skill, UD professor of communication.

UD's Information Systems Laboratory, which is part of the School of Business Administration, produced the video as part of the University's ongoing ministry to people with handicaps. "I think it's important for businesses to take a lead in providing funding for important projects in the community," said Sam Gould, dean of the School of Business Administration. "And if we expect businesses to do that, then the concept of community involvement should be introduced to future business leaders while they are in school learning all the basics of their profession."

"The Challenge of Independence" was the first project for the Information Systems Laboratory, which was established in April 1988 through a $1 million gift from Reynolds and Reynolds.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Claude Ray and Becky Center are both residents of West Carrollton; Johnnie Wilder Jr. is a resident of the 45415 area of Dayton; Vicki Russell is a resident of the 45420 area of Dayton; and Jim Dolphin is living in the 45431 area of Dayton while at school. Dolphin's hometown is Allison Park, Penn.