

Lucy Gwin Papers

1968-2009

6 boxes (9 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 822



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[Series 1. Mouth Magazine](#)

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Born in Indiana, the writer Lucy Gwin (1943-2014) lived "a lot of lives," in her own words, working in advertising, as a dairy farmer, civil rights activist, and deckhand on ships servicing oil rigs, all before the age of 40. While living in Rochester, N.Y., in 1989, however, her life took a sudden turn. After a head-on collision with a drunk driver left her with traumatic brain injury, Gwin was remanded for care to the New Medico Brain Rehabilitation Center, where she witnessed a world of isolation, patient abuse, and powerlessness. Never one to shrink from a challenge, she escaped from the Center and used her skills as an organizer and writer to expose conditions at New Medico and shut the facility down. Through her experiences, Gwin emerged as a powerful, often

acerbic voice in all-disability rights advocacy, becoming the founder, designer, and editor of the influential *Mouth Magazine* in 1990.

Lucy Gwin's papers document the advocacy of an important figure in the disability rights movement. The rich documentation for *Mouth Magazine* includes comprehensive editorial files arranged issue by issue, some correspondence with authors and supporters, and copies of the published issue. The balance of the collection contains Gwin's other work as a writer, personal correspondence, and materials relating to her experiences with and campaign against New Medico.

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Background on Lucy Gwin

As a writer, editor, and activist, Lucy Gwin had a profound impact on the disability rights movement. Her sharp wit and even sharper analytical skills became the driving force behind *Mouth*, the magazine she produced for nearly twenty years and which reflected her unwavering commitment to the principle that disability rights was an essential part of the civil rights movement.

Born in Indiana in 1943, Gwin lived "a lot of lives," in her own estimation, working in advertising, as a dairy farmer, civil rights activist, a writer, mother, and laborer on oil rig support boats in Louisiana, all before the age of 40. While living in Rochester, N.Y., in 1989, however, her life took a sudden turn. After a head-on collision with a drunk driver left her in a coma for three weeks, Gwin was remanded to the New Medico Brain Rehabilitation Center for care for traumatic brain injury. According to her own account, however instead of care, she discovered a world of isolation, patient abuse, and powerlessness, asserting that New Medico would not release her until her health insurance funds ran out. Enlisting a friend to help her escape from the facility, she went on to hone her skills as an organizer and writer while confronting the health care system that had held her against her will. Working with Ken Collins and other brain injury survivors, she pushed the Brain Injury Association of America into becoming a more consumer-oriented agency and she waged a untiring campaign to expose conditions at New Medico, eventually contributing to the closure of the facility.

In her efforts to build a grassroots movement, Gwin increasingly advocated for a cross-disability approach predicated on the recognition that arguments for disability rights were fundamentally arguments for civil rights. To provide a voice for the movement, she founded the influential *Mouth Magazine* in 1990, becoming not only its primary writer, but its designer, publisher, and editor. Through the often acerbic pages of *Mouth* and her other activism, Gwin took on a wide range of issues over the next twenty years, insisting on the necessity of an all-disability rights approach, advocating for home- and community-based services, critiquing the concept of "normality" and the myriad systemic failures to cope with disability. As a supporter of the group Not Dead Yet, she became a vocal opponent of the concept of "death with dignity" and physician-assisted suicide, arguing they were a threat to the disability community by privileging cost reduction over human lives.

After years of struggle with her health, Gwin died at her home in Washington, Pa., on Oct. 30, 2014.

Scope of collection

Lucy Gwin's papers document the advocacy of an important figure in the disability rights movement. The rich documentation for *Mouth Magazine* includes comprehensive editorial files arranged issue by issue, correspondence with authors and supporters, and copies of each published issue. The balance of the collection contains Gwin's other work as a writer, personal correspondence, and materials relating to her experiences with and campaign against New Medico.

Series descriptions

Series 1. Mouth Magazine

1990-2008

2.25 boxes

Enter series description here.

Series 2. Correspondence and Subject Files

1968-2009

3.75 boxes

Enter series description here.

Inventory

Series 1. Mouth Magazine

1990-2008

2.25 boxes

Mouth Premiere Issue: vol. 1, no. 1

1990 July-Aug.

Box 1: 1

Mouth issue 2: vol. 1, no. 2

1990 Aug.-Sept.

Box 1: 2

Mouth issue 3: vol. 1, no. 3

1990 Sept.-Oct

Box 1: 3

Mouth issue 4: vol. 1, no. 4

1990 Nov.-Dec.

Box 1: 4

Mouth issue 5: vol. 1, no. 5

1991 Jan.-Feb.

Box 1: 5

Mouth issue 6: vol. 1, no. 6

1991 Mar.-Apr.

Box 1: 6

Mouth issue 7: Special Professional Issue: vol. 2, no. 1

1991 May-June

Box 1: 7

Mouth issue 8: Identity Issue: vol. 2, no. 2

1991 July-Aug.

Box 1: 8

Mouth issue 9: Get A Job Issue: vol. 2, no. 3

1991 Sept.-Oct.

Box 1: 9

Mouth issue 10: Comedy Issue: vol. 2, no. 4

1991 Nov.-Dec.

Box 1: 10

Mouth issue 11: Crime Issue: vol. 2, no. 5

1992 Jan.-Feb.

Box 1: 11

Mouth issue 12: The Drugs Issue: vol. 2, no. 6

1992 Mar.-Apr.

Box 1: 12

Mouth issue 13: The Gratitude Issue: vol. 3, no. 1

1992 May-June

Box 1: 13

Mouth issue 14: Independence Issue: vol. 3, no. 2

1992 July-Aug.

Box 1: 14

Mouth issue 15: Speak Out Issue: vol. 3, no. 3

1992 Sept.-Oct.

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Mouth issue 16: The Green Book: vol. 3, no. 4

1992 Nov.-Dec.

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Mouth issue 17: Steam Issue: vol. 3, no. 5

1993 Jan.-Feb.

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Mouth issue 18: vol. 3, no. 6

1993 Mar.-Apr.

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Mouth issue 19: vol. 4, no. 1

1993 May-June

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Mouth issue 20: vol. 4, no. 2

1993 July-Aug.

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Mouth issue 21: vol. 4, no. 3

1993 Sept.-Oct.

Box 1: 21

Mouth issue 22: The Sorta Funny Issue: vol. 4, no. 4

1993 Nov.-Dec.

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Mouth issue 23: vol. 4, no. 5

1994 Jan.-Feb.

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Mouth issue 24: vol. 4, no. 6

1994 Mar.-Apr.

Box 1: 24

Mouth issue 35: vol. 5, no. 1

1994 May-June

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Mouth issue 26: vol. 5, no. 2

1994 July-Aug.

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Mouth issue: 27: The Getting Wise Issue: vol. 5, no. 3

1994 Sept.-Oct.

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Mouth issue 28: vol. 5, no. 4

1994 Nov.-Dec.

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Mouth issue 29: vol. 5, no. 5

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Mouth issue 30: vol. 5, no. 6

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Mouth issue 31: vol. 6, no. 1

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Mouth issue 32: vol. 6, no. 2

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Mouth issue 34: vol. 6, no. 4

1995 Nov.-Dec.

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Mouth issue 35: vol. 6, no. 5

1996 Jan.-Feb.

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Mouth issue 36: vol. 6, no. 6

1996 Mar.-Apr.

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Mouth issue 37: vol. 7, no. 1

1996 May-June

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Mouth issue 38: vol. 7, no. 2

1996 July-Aug.

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1997 July-Aug.

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Mouth issue 47: vol. 9, no. 1

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Mouth issue 53: vol. 10, no. 1

1999 May-June

Box 2: 5

Mouth issue 54: vol. 10, no. 2

1999 July-Aug.

Box 2: 6

Mouth issue 55: vol. 10., no. 3

1999 Sept.-Oct.

Box 2: 7

Mouth issue 56: vol. 10, no. 4

1999 Nov.-Dec.

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Mouth issue 57: vol. 10, no. 5

2000 Jan.-Feb.

Box 2: 9

Mouth issue 58: vol. 10, no. 6

2000 Mar.-Apr.

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2000 May-June

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Mouth issue 60: vol. 11, no. 2

2000 July-Aug.

Box 2: 12

Mouth issue 61: vol. 11, no. 3

2000 Sept.-Oct.

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Mouth issue 62: vol. 11, no. 4

2000 Nov.-Dec.

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Mouth issue 63: vol. 11, no. 5

2001 Jan.-Feb.

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Mouth issue 64: vol. 11, no. 6

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Mouth issue 65: vol. 12, no. 1

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Mouth issue 66: vol. 12, no. 2

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Mouth issue 74: vol. 13, no. 4

2002 Nov.-Dec.

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Mouth issue 75: vol. 13, no. 5

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Mouth issue 76: vol. 13, no. 6

2003 Mar.-Apr.

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Mouth issue 103: vol. 18, no. 3

2007 Sept.-Oct.

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Mouth issues 104-105: vol. 18, no. 4 and 5

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Mouth issue 106: vol. 18, no. 6

2008 Mar.-Apr.

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Mouth issues 107-109: vol. 19, no. 1

2008 May-Jun

Box 3: 8

Series 2. Correspondence and Subject Files

1968-2009

3.75 boxes

A Chance to be Made Whole

undated

Box 3: 9

Adrian, Paul: Preface: New Medico Preface

1992 Mar.

Box 3: 10

Alabama Law Review: Disability, Equality, and Identity

2004

Box 3: 11

Ambulance and Hospital Costs

1989

Box 3: 12

Amis, Martin: Nuke City

1987 Oct.

Box 3: 13

"As Others See Us": Disability Articles

2006-2007

Box 3: 17

"As Others See Us: More Disability Articles

2006-2007

Box 3: 18

Attending to America: World Institute on Disability

1987 Apr.

Box 3: 19

Attitude Adjustment Stickers

undated

Box 3: 20

Austin Conference Notes

1990 Mar.

Box 3: 21

Automotive: Accident and Correspondence

undated

Box 3: 22

Baby Bloc

2003-2004

Box 3: 23

Bang on the Head

1990

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Bang on the Head: Drafts and Notes

1990

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Bones
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Bones: Plot Outline and Notes
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Box 3: 27
"Box O' Death": More Death Files
2006
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Brimstone Bulletin
2001-2004
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Butler, Clay: Sidewalk Bubblegum Comics
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Butler, Clay: Sidewalk Bubblegum Comics
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1989
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1985 Oct.
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Correspondence: Anthony, David A.
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Correspondence: Anthony, David A.
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Correspondence: Anthony, David A.
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Correspondence: Backus, Randy
1990
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Correspondence: Bauer, William; Re: Law Files (accident) and Post
1989-1991
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Correspondence Re: Bills and Expenditures

1989-1990

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Correspondence: Freelance

1984 Sept.-1986 Jan.

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1989 Nov.-1990 Mar.

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2006 Oct.

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Correspondence: Semorile, Trina: Women in Journalism

2005

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2005 May

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Correspondence: Woods, Oviatt, Gilman, Sturman and Clark: Attorneys

1989-1991

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1990 Feb.-July

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"Death File"

2004-2005

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Pelka, Fred: "The Humanist"

1995 Apr.

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Disability and Rutgers University Bureau of Research: The Need for Personal Assistance

undated

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Disability Magazines
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Disability Magazines
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Disability Rag: Issues and Letters
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2002 Apr.
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Drake, Carrie: "Something Ainn't Right in the Cuckoo's Nest"
1999
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Edwards, Frank: "Strange People" pp.7-8
1961
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Euthanasia (Assisted Suicide)
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2000 Jan.
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1996
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Indiana, Gary: Memories of the Reagan and Bush Administrations
1995 Jan.
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1989 Dec.
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John, Wayne
1990
Box 5: 7
Keep Mouth Alive
1998 June
Box 5: 8
Kemper, Peter: An Evaluation of the Veterans Administration Housebound and Aid and Attendance Allowance Program
1987 Apr.
Box 5: 9
Legal: Class Action
1990 Sept.-1993 June
Box 5: 10
Legal Correspondence
1988 Feb.-1994 Mar.
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Legal Notes and Correspondence
undated
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"Legislation" Notes
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Libel Manual
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LINK Magazine
1993 Apr.-July
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Medicaid Notes
1993-1994
Box 5: 16
Medicaid Questions/Relaxation Techniques
undated
Box 5: 17
Mental Health Communities
1994-1995
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Millionaires Club Notes
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Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities: Comedy Network
1986 June-Oct.
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Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities: Comedy Network
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Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities: Comedy Network
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Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities: Comedy Network
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Miscellaneous Magazines
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undated
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MLK: Poetry and Note cards
undated

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"Mordrake's Other": Edward Mordrake

1980

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Murderous Science: "Nine Questions"

undated

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1989

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National Council on Disability

2002 Dec.

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1993

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undated

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Notebooks

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Notes
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Nursing Home Facts
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O'Brien, Mark: Poetry
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Oda, John: "ASL and Deaf Culture" and "Why Do Segregated Vocational Programs Persist?"
1994 Dec.
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Oregon Department of Human Resources: Senior and Disabled Services Division
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Outline: No Title
undated
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Personal AD #1: Responses
1984
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1985
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Personal Assistance Services: A Guide to Policy and Action: part 1
undated
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Personal Assistance Services: A Guide to Policy and Action: part 2
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Personals
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Philosophical Foundation For the Independent Living and Disability Rights Movement: part 1
1982 Aug.
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Philosophical Foundation For the Independent Living and Disability Rights Movement: part 2
1982 Aug.
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1982 Aug.
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1990
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Pollard, Robert: Disability Research
1992
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Poole, Dexter: Film: "The Law in Pickens Hollow"
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Pre-accident Notes

1989

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Pretty Quick Training Guide for Becoming a P.R. Pro

undated

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Proposed PAS Benefit in the Health Security Act

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Raison D'etre (Reason for Existence)

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Random Notes

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"Scan for News"

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Scanned Illustration: Originals

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Sloddervos, Ongelo F.: "Meta4s 4 44 Days"

1999

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Social Issues: Newspaper Clippings

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Speech: "The Marriage Conspiracy"

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1991-1998

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Vital Viking: The Viking Press and "Unwelcome Aboard"

1980

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1917

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WHAM! The Brain Injury Owner's Manual

1992

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What Women Want

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Why Women Need Money

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Wolbring, Gregor Dr.: Science and the Disadvantaged

2000

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Wolfensberger, Wolf: The New Genocide of Handicapped and Afflicted People (Second Edition)

1992

Box 6: 49

World Institute of Disability (WID)

1994-1995

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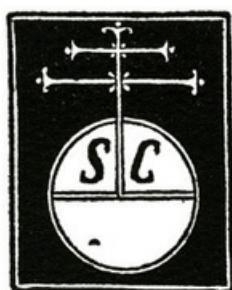
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