

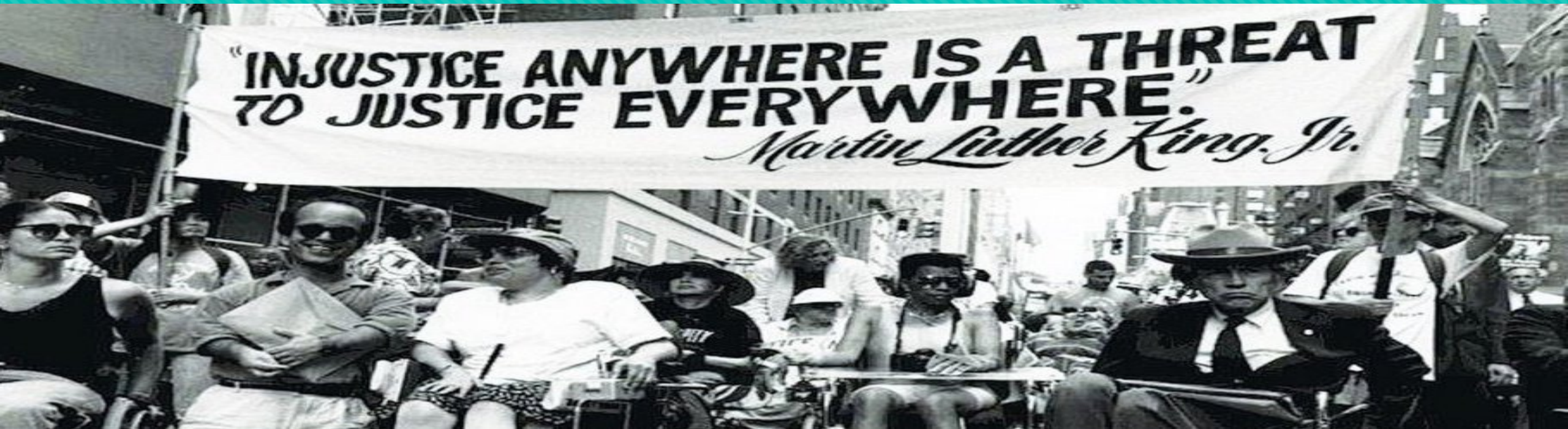
504 Sit-In Social Analysis

By: Hailey Horn*, Kensie Plienplang*, and Charissa Robertson*

Pittsburg State University

April 14th, 2021

* All authors have contributed equally



Camp Jened and breaking down system justifying beliefs

- ❖ **System Justification Theory-** states that disadvantaged groups are likely to agree with their placement in society and thereby hinder their own, and their groups advancement in life (Osborne & Sibley, 2013).
- ❖ Camp Jened was a camp for disabled teenagers in New York that was founded in 1951 (Smith, 2020).
- ❖ Before going to camp Jened many of the campers were unaware that life could be better for them and that they deserved better (Smith, 2020). Camp Jened allowed them to break away from system justifying thoughts and behavior. It allowed them to fully participate in life in ways they had never had the opportunity to do before (LeBracht, 2020).
- ❖ Many of these teenagers went on to partake in not only the 504 Sit-In but other disability rights events (Newnham & LeBrecht, 2020). Camp Jened allowed them to develop a sense of community that continued long after their days at Camp Jened (Newnham & LeBrecht, 2020).



Legislation of the 1970's

- ❖ Section 504 states, “No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States... shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” (Carmel, 2020, para. 2).
- ❖ The 504 Sit-In occurred due to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 still not being implemented in 1977 (Carmel, 2020).

Attitudes of Mainstream Society and Paternalistic Prejudice

- ❖ **Attitudes-** A general and enduring belief towards a person, group, concept, movement, or object (American Psychological Association, n.d.).
- ❖ During the 1970's society did not perceive disabled people as capable of doing things themselves or even see them as humans. "I had limited expectations for being treated as a human being." (Judy Heumann, 1997, p. 15).
- ❖ **Paternalistic Prejudice-** Disdain toward a perceive outgroup, coupled with pity, and perceived inability that leads to the assertion of authority over the group (Dalal, 2006).
- ❖ Example of experienced paternalistic prejudice: "society kept too many of us hidden away in institutions or in sheltered workshops. Society justified this by saying that people with disabilities needed to be "protected" and "cared for" as if we were objects of pity and charity. Today, this attitude has been labeled for what it is: blatant discrimination." (Judy Heumann, 1997, p. 15).

What was the 504 Sit-In?

- ❖ The 504 Sit-In was the longest occupation of a federal building in the United States history (Carmel, 2020). It started when the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities issued a statement calling for national protest if section 504 was not implemented by April 4th, 1977 (Carmel, 2020).
- ❖ On April 5th protest occurred throughout the nation but most ended that day (Shoot, 2017). However, the protest at the San Francisco HEW building did not end, instead the protesters walked into the building and unpacked (Shoot, 2017).
- ❖ The Sit-In occurred for 28 days and ended with the implementation of section 504 which took place after a delegate of 12 went to Washington to further press the issue at hand (Cone, n.d.).

Who all was involved in the Sit-In and what was the leadership style?

- ❖ The Sit-In was composed with a diverse group of individuals with disabilities and those who support them (Cone, n.d.). Besides those partaking in the sit-in there was a wide show of support from the community.
- ❖ **Transformational Leadership-** This is a type of leadership that is able to transform a group from individuals looking out for their wants and needs to a group who puts the group above their wants and needs (Conger et al., 2000). Leaders during the 504 Sit-In used transformational leadership to convince participants to stay even to the detriment of their personal health (Shoot, 2017).
- ❖ There were also several leaders present among the protestors who were extremely influential these include, Judy Heumann, Kitty Cone, Dennis Billups, Ron Washington, Brad Lomax (Lebracht & Newnham, 2020).

Leaders: Judy Heumann



- ❖ Judy Heumann is widely known as the main leader of the 504 sit-in. She helped organize committees throughout the sit-in to help everyone feel integral to the success of the sit-in (Paul K Longmore Institute, 2014).
- ❖ She was also a key speaker in the movement and went to Washington D.C. with the other main leaders to put additional pressure on Joseph Califano (Carmel, 2020).

Leaders: Kitty Cone



- ❖ Resident organizer for the Center For Independent Living (CIL), she was recruited by Judy Heumann to help begin organizing sit-ins in the bay area (Cone & Landes, 20000).
- ❖ “My role was to take what was decided in the big, broad coalition meetings... like to do outreach to community organizations, or to get sponsors, or to get particular people to speak at the rally that was going to be held on April 5, and organize this group of paralegals to carry out the decisions.” (Cone, 2000, section 119, para. 3).

Leaders: Dennis Billups



- ❖ Known as the chief morale officer of the San Francisco sit-in that lasted between 26-28 days, he claims that his role in the 504 was to find his role during that time through public speaking and activism (Carranza & J, 2015).
- ❖ He became involved in the 504 movement through the recreation center for the handicapped in San Francisco. He was in charge of leading the marches and chants. He later traveled to Washington D.C. with other key leaders to keep the rally going and led walks at the capitol (Billups, 2014).

Leaders: Ron Washington



- ❖ Ron Washington was a leader of the 504 Sit-In. During the demonstration Ron was considered the man to go to if someone needed help (Paul K Longmore Institute, 2014).
- ❖ His approachable personality and personal relations kept the group from being removed by security (Paul K Longmore Institute, 2014).

Leaders: Brad Lomax



- ❖ Brad Lomax was a disability activist and a member of the Black Panther Party. He had Multiple Sclerosis which caused him to need the assistance of a wheelchair (Connelly, 2020).
- ❖ It is reported that if Brad had not been a part of the sit-in that the Black Panther Party would not have fed the 504 demonstrators and the sit-in would have collapsed (Connelly, 2020).

Supporters and Allies

- ❖ George Moscone (Mayor of San Francisco, CA), showed support by donating towels, medicines, and other items. He also argued with federal officials for a makeshift shower within the building to allow protesters to shower (“We Shall Not Be Moved”, 1997).
- ❖ The Black Panther Party provided one to two meals to the demonstrators daily (“20th Anniversary Victorious 504 Sit-In for Disability Civil Rights”, 1997).
- ❖ Safeway Stores, unions, McDonald's, gay rights groups, civil rights groups, and GLIDE memorial church all helped in providing food to the demonstrators (“20th Anniversary Victorious 504 Sit-In for Disability Civil Rights”, 1997).

Minority Influence and the Success of the 504 Sit-In

- ❖ **Minority Influence-** When a minority group is able to influence change in society; this may occur due to the minority group using different strategies including pointing out the discrepancies between the society's values such as equality and how they actually treat the minority group (Sanchez-Mazas, 2018). The above strategy was used in the 504 Sit-In (Shoot, 2017).
- ❖ After the delegation went to Washington, Joseph Califano quietly implemented section 504 on April 28th, 1977 due to increasing pressure (Shoot, 2017).
- ❖ The success of the 504 Sit-In paved the way for future disability rights movements and the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990 (Shoot, 2017).

References

American Psychological Association. (n.d.). *Dictionary*. <https://dictionary.apa.org/attitude>

Billups, D. (2014). *Disability rights activist Dennis Billups on the 1977 section 504 occupation*. Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability Collection. <https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/longmoreinstitute/bundles/230642>

Carmel, J. (2020, July 22). *Before the A.D.A., there was section 504*. NY Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/22/us/504-sit-in-disability-rights.html>

Carranza, J. & Orozco, L. (2015). *Alumnus remembers disability rights movement*. Golden Gate Xpress. <https://goldengateexpress.org/67209/multimedia/alumnus-remembers-disability-rights-movement/>

References

Center for Independent Living. (n.d.). [Kitty Cone and reporters] [Photograph]. *Because of Her Story*.
<https://womenshistory.si.edu/news/2020/03/kitty-cone-advocate-disability-rights>

Cone, K., & Landes, D. (2000). *Political organizer for disability rights, 1970s-1990s, and strategist for section 504 demonstrations, 1977*. Online Archive of California. https://oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=kt1w1001mt&brand=oac4&doc.view=entire_text

Conger, J. A., Kanungo, R. N., & Menon, S. T. (2000, November). Charismatic leadership and follower effects. *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, 21(7).

Connelly, E. A. (2020, July 08). *Overlooked no MORE: Brad Lomax, a bridge between civil rights movements*. Retrieved March 09, 2021, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/08/obituaries/brad-lomax-overlooked.html>

References

Crip Camp. (n.d.). [Girls gathered together for a camp activity] [Photograph]. *Ford Foundation*.
<https://www.fordfoundation.org/just-matters/just-matters/posts/the-camp-that-ignited-a-movement/>

Dalal, A. K. (2006, August). Social interventions to moderate discriminatory attitudes: The case of the physically challenged in India. *Psychology, Health & Medicine*, 11(3), 374-382. <http://doi.org/10.1080/13548500600595392>

Diva. (n.d.). [Ron Washington sitting for an interview] [Photograph]. DIVA Paul K Longmore Institute Collection.
<https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/longmoreinstitute/bundles/230595>

Hartman, T., S. (1993). [ADA anniversary march- NYC] [Photograph]. *Southern Disability Law Center*. <http://www.sdlcenter.org/>

References

Heumann, J. (1997, June 1). *The dynamics of empowerment*. (pp. 15-18). 20th anniversary victorious 504 sit-in for disability civil rights. <https://mn.gov/mnddc/parallels2/pdf/90s/97/97-V504-CCC.pdf>

HolLynn, D. L. (1977). [Brad Lomax, center, next to the activist Judy Heumann at a rally in 1977 at Lafayette Square] [Photograph] NY Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/08/obituaries/brad-lomax-overlooked.html>

HolLynn, D. L. & Netflix. (n.d.). [Judy Heumann in a scene from “Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution”] [Photograph] NY Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/25/movies/crip-camp-judy-heumann.html>

LeBrecht, J. (2020, December 3). *How one summer camp inspired a movement*. Shondaland. <https://www.shondaland.com/act/a34777673/how-one-camp-inspired-a-movement/>

References

Lebracht, J. & Newnham, N. (2020, March 25). *Crip Camp* [Film]. Higher Ground Productions.

Newnham, N. & LeBrecht, J. (2020, August 5). *The camp that ignited a movement*. Ford Foundation.
<https://www.fordfoundation.org/just-matters/just-matters/posts/the-camp-that-ignited-a-movement/>

Osborne, D., & Sibley, C. G. (2013). Through rose-colored glasses: System-justifying beliefs deampen the effects of relative deprivation on well-being and political mobilization. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 39, 991-1004.

Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability. (2014). *Disability activist Judy Heumann on being one of the key leaders of the section 504 protest*. Retrieved on March 15, 2021, from <https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/longmoreinstitute/bundles/230641>

References

Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability. (2014). *Activist Ron Washington on the Section 504 protests and civil rights*. Retrieved March 09, 2021, from <https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/longmoreinstitute/bundles/230595>

Sanchez-Mazas, M. (2018). Minority influence and the struggle for recognition: Towards and articulation between social influence research and theory of recognition. *International Review of Social Psychology*, 31(1), 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.5334/irsp.41>

San Francisco Examiner Collection. (n.d.). [Dennis Billups using megaphone] [Photograph] Twitter. <https://twitter.com/CripCampFilm/status/1252696131605344257/photo/1>

Shoot, B. (2017, November 9). *The 1977 disability rights protest that broke records and changed laws*. Atlas Obscura. <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/504-sit-in-san-francisco-1977-disability-rights-advocacy>

References

Smith, N. (2020, July 26). *How a free-spirited summer camp for disabled teens in the '70s changed the world..* People. <https://people.com/movies/how-a-free-spirited-summer-camp-for-disabled-teens-in-the-70s-changed-the-world/>

"We Shall Not be Moved" The 504 Sit-In for Disability Civil Rights. Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund. (2017, April 5). <https://dredf.org/we-shall-not-be-moved/>.

20th anniversary victorious 504 sit-in for disability civil rights: Celebration & commemoration, June 1, 1997, San Francisco. (1997). Berkeley, CA: 504 Sit-in 20th Anniversary Celebration and Commemoration Committee. doi: <https://mn.gov/mnddc/parallels2/pdf/90s/97/97-V504-CCC.pdf>